

## 7 ancient sarcophagi found near motorway

Cairo (AFP) — Seven ancient sarcophagi have been discovered only a few metres from a motorway slicing past the pyramids, the head of Egypt's Department of Antiquities announced yesterday. Abdul Halim Nur Eddin, quoted by the daily Al Akhbar, said the pharaonic sarcophagi were found in tombs carved in the rock. One contained a scroll belonging to a pharaoh named Iun Shams, along with a large quantity of porcelain pots and offerings. A final decision on whether to continue the construction of the motorway will be taken by the end of this week, officials said Monday. President Hosni Mubarak last month ordered a halt to construction work on the road, which will pass within 2.5 kilometres of the Sphinx and the three pyramids at Giza, just outside Cairo. Said Zulfikar, an expert from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), has described the motorway as illegal and in violation of both Egyptian and international law on the protection of the world's heritage.

British worker wins £18 million in lottery

LONDON (AP) — A British lottery winner, a 26-year-old woman and three children, won £18 million in the lottery. The woman, whose name has not been disclosed, is the mother of a 10-year-old girl. She is the first woman to win the lottery in the United Kingdom. The lottery was established in 1994 to raise money for the National Health Service and the National Lottery. The lottery has raised over £1 billion since its inception.

£18 million

## 'No single cause found for Gulf war syndrome'

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A clinical study of more than 1,000 veterans suffering from so-called Gulf war syndrome has uncovered no single cause to explain the broad array of symptoms they complain of, the Pentagon said late Monday.

No connection was found in the Department of Defence study between the ailments and exposure to chemical or biological weapons, said Stephen Joseph, assistant secretary of defence for health affairs.

According to Mr. Joseph, 85 per cent of the cases resulted in multiple diagnoses for the symptoms reported — most often fatigue, joint pains, headache, memory loss, disturbed sleep, poor concentration, skin rashes, and muscle pain and depression.

"If you look at the broad range of diagnoses that we find and what we understand of the multiple causes of those multiple diagnoses, we don't find any magic bullet, any indication of a single agent or single causality that would cover that broad spectrum," said Joseph.

In 15 per cent of the cases, no clear diagnosis was reached and those patients will be referred to two specialised medical centres for

further testing, said Mr. Joseph.

In theory a single cause may still be found among those cases but so far the evidence "points very strongly away from a single diagnosis or disease," he said.

"We don't see anything in terms of the clustering of the symptoms, partial diagnoses, other clues," he said at a news conference. "To date we see no correlations across that group, but that's what we'll be looking for in the specialised care centres."

Mr. Joseph said no correlation had been found between the unexplained ailments and either military units or geographical locations.

An army computer programme is in the works that should some day be able to locate all 700,000 servicemen by unit and location on any given day, but it has yet to be completed, he noted.

The 1,019 patients in the study were among 11,000 who have contacted a Defence Department hotline. Although Mr. Joseph described the study's findings as preliminary, he said they were based on fairly complete results on the first thousand.

A similar study of 17,000 patients who signed up with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) turned up similar results, said Robert Roswell, who's coordinating government action on the Gulf syndrome.

Of those, 20 per cent reported symptoms for which there was no clear diagnosis.

he said.

"It seems certain, based on the analysis of information in this registry we're dealing with multiple causes giving rise to unexplained illnesses, as opposed to a single agent," said Mr. Roswell, chief of staff of the Birmingham, Alabama Veterans Administration Medical Centre.

Pentagon and the VA registries now hold the names of about 45,000 Gulf veterans complaining of possible Gulf war syndrome ailments.

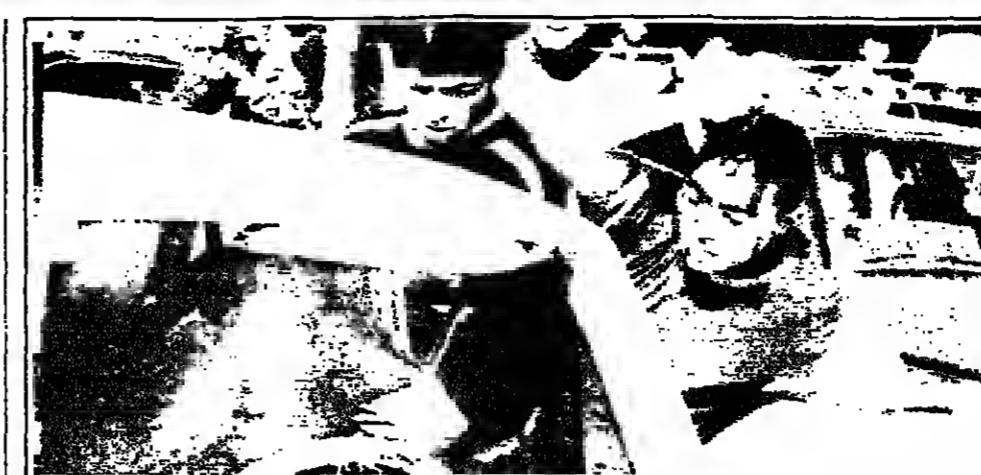
Mr. Joseph said the vast majority of the patients whose ailments have been diagnosed were responding to medical treatment.

The Pentagon has established specialised medical centres in Washington and San Antonio, Texas to continue treatment and testing of Gulf war veterans with unexplained ailments. Mr. Joseph

said. "Further research will certainly be needed to identify all the potential factors that have contributed to the current health problems of Persian Gulf veterans," said Mr. Roswell.

Large epidemiological studies will be conducted early next year to compare the incidence of unexplained illnesses among the Gulf veterans to the general population, he said.

The VA has established three national environmental hazard research centres to investigate a wide variety of factors that might have affected the health of the veterans.



RAGE OF HAMAS: A Hamas activist Wednesday stabs an Israeli soldier begging for mercy in the West Bank town of Ramallah and drove into a demonstration by before being rescued by border guards and Islamic fundamentalists. The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas celebrated the seventh anniversary of its foundation. The soldier, who was in uniform, suffered "moderate" wounds taken to hospital (AFP photo)

## 'Israeli-run jail like Nazi camps'

BEIRUT (R) — A prison run under Israeli supervision on South Lebanon is similar to Nazi death camps, the head of France's human rights commission said Tuesday.

Khiam detention centre is a death camp similar to the Nazi camps during World War II," monique Picard Weyl told reporters in Beirut.

"Many (captives) are blind, lose limbs, ears and eyes and are sick." Ms. Weyl said, citing reports by a committee of former prisoners.

About 250 Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners are held in Khiam by the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia but ultimate control is with Israel, which has 1,000 troops in South Lebanon.

Ms. Weyl said the jail was closed to outside inspection and she had been refused entry by the SLA and the Israelis. This, and reports of conditions inside from former inmates and their families

were her reason for comparing it to Nazi camps, she said.

"If it (Khiam) is not a concentration camp they have to open it to the Red Cross and to visits by lawyers," Ms. Weyl told Reuters.

"If it was a good and normal prison it would be possible to go in. In Nazi times no one could go into Nazi jails. You can visit a jail when the conditions are normal."

Ms. Weyl said a former prisoner named Selim Awada died a week ago at the American University of Beirut, four days after being released from Khiam. Press reports in Beirut have said his three sons are still held in Khiam.

Ms. Weyl said the aim of her visit to Lebanon was to publicise the plight of Khiam prisoners and of Lebanese prisoners held in Israel.

"These things should be known outside Lebanon," she said. She is meeting

senior Lebanese officials including President Elias Hrawi as well as former prisoners and their families during a week-long stay.

Ms. Weyl said when she returned to France she would contact Israeli officials to get SLA Chief General Antoine Lahd's permission to allow her to enter Khiam.

"I tried to visit it. I didn't succeed so far. The Israelis say ask Lahd and Lahd says ask the Israelis," Ms. Weyl said. "Even in Israel many people think it is not normal that Khiam is not opened (to visits). I met people in Israel who were with me," she added.

She said she met six Lebanon captives in Ashkelon prison in Israel two weeks ago but did not see Muslim militant leader Mustapha Al Dirani, who was kidnapped from Israeli commandos from eastern Lebanon in May.

Under the deal signed with Solidere, the private company in charge of developing and rebuilding the city centre, Moawad pledged to stop the work from four to three years in exchange for an annual \$13 million.

Thousands of fragments of pottery are scattered across the site overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. The surrounding wall has been flattened.

Leyla Badr, archaeologist at the American University of Beirut in charge of the site, said that if the bulldozers had deviated from their initial course by five metres "this vandalism would have been avoided."

Moawad, insisting it was not to blame for the damage, suspended work to allow for greater cooperation with the experts.

But the firm's director said: "If we have to stop the bulldozers each time we see a fragment of pottery it will take us 50 years before we can rebuild the city centre."

Solidere's archaeology consultant Hareth Bustani played down the importance of the damage.

"Accidents happen on big construction sites," he said, stressing Solidere's commitment to preserving the largest possible number of archaeological sites.

Mr. Bustani complained however that not enough archaeological teams were working on digs because "the official of antiquities does not have the means to hire more people."

## Beirut reconstruction put on hold as archaeologists cry foul

BEIRUT (AFP) — The multi-million-dollar reconstruction of Beirut city centre has been put on hold after a bulldozer rammed into an ancient wall, prompting archaeologists to cry foul.

The experts charged that in his haste the contractor in charge of rebuilding the infrastructure had destroyed a wall dating back to the 13th century B.C.

The Moawad contracting firm is destroying, and has dumped into the sea over the past three weeks, a section of a wall dating back to the second millennium before Christ," charged archaeologist Freddy Naccache.

The wall destroyed last Wednesday was part of the surrounding wall of ancient Beirut which was excavated several months ago, he said.

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Beirut MP Mohammad Kabban echoed the accusation and called on the international community to help safeguard Beirut's ancient heritage.

"Archaeologists cannot keep pace with the giant bulldozers," he said, calling for coordination between contractors and archaeologists.

On Nov. 18 Moawad and the Italian consortium Consorzio Cooperativo Construzioni clinched a contract worth \$63.7 million to rebuild the infrastructure of the war-shattered city centre of Beirut.

17:30 ..... Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)  
21:30 ..... Ajaccio, Larissa (RJ)

02:30 ..... Amsterdam (KL)

**MIAZ RAILWAY TRAIN**

Dep. Amman ..... 8:00 a.m. every Monday  
Arr. Damascus ..... 5:00 p.m. every Monday  
Dep. Damascus ..... 7:30 a.m. every Sunday  
Arr. Amman ..... 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

**MARKET PRICES**

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple ..... 700 / 600  
Banana ..... 600 / 500  
Banana (Makammer) ..... 600 / 500

Carrot ..... 170 / 130

Cauliflower ..... 350 / 300

Clementine ..... 320 / 280

Cucumbers (large) ..... 400 / 350

Cucumbers (small) ..... 650 / 550

Eggplant ..... 280 / 160

Garlic ..... 550 / 400

Grape Fruits ..... 240 / 140

Lemon ..... 260 / 160

Marrow (large) ..... 250 / 200

Marrow (small) ..... 420 / 300

Onion (green) ..... 280 / 180

Onion (dry) ..... 420 / 300

Pepper (green) ..... 120 / 100

Pepper (sweet) ..... 420 / 300

Potato ..... 300 / 200

Radish ..... 280 / 200

Spinach ..... 280 / 180

String Beans ..... 900 / 700

Tomato ..... 460 / 300

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

**PROGRAMME TWO**

17:30 ..... *Tao-Tao*  
17:36 ..... *Film: "Les Eaux D'orantes"*  
19:00 ..... *News in French*  
19:30 ..... *N.B.A.*  
19:45 ..... *Planete En Equation*  
20:30 ..... *The Road to Aventura*  
21:10 ..... *Tequila and Boncini*  
22:00 ..... *Feature Film*  
23:59 ..... *The Investigator*  
(Tel. 511295)

### PRAYER TIMES

05:00 ..... *Fajr*  
06:32 ..... *(Sunrise) Dhuha*  
11:30 ..... *Dhuhr*  
14:15 ..... *Asr*  
16:38 ..... *Maghrib*  
18:00 ..... *Isha*

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church ..... 510740  
Assemblies of God Church ..... Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terrapsis Church Tel. 622366  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541  
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 623543

### JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

#### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

##### NIGHT DUTY

**AMMAN:**  
Dr. Ekhri Tayeb ..... 585580  
Dr. Salma Al Daboubi ..... 710751  
Dr. Nidal Al Dahleh ..... 827195  
Dr. Bassam Karadsh ..... 739209  
Firdous pharmacy ..... 661912  
Firdous pharmacy ..... 637655  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Narouk pharmacy ..... 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shuncisati pharmacy ..... 637666  
Najib pharmacy ..... 847632  
**IRBD:**  
Dr. Ahmad Oam ..... (—)  
Alquda pharmacy ..... (—)  
**ZARQA:**  
Dr. Ahmad Al Tarif ..... 900806  
Khalilieh pharmacy ..... 985417

##### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre ..... 637111

#### Civil Defence Department

Civil Defence Immediate ..... 661111  
Rescue ..... 630441  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 199  
Rescue Police ..... 192 / 621111 / 631111  
Fire Brigade ..... 671703  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843400  
Traffic Police ..... 896590  
Public Security Department ..... 632100  
Hotel Complaints ..... 642580  
Price Complaints ..... 661175  
Water and Sewerage Complaints ..... 697467  
Amman Municipality Complaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Call ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs ..... 621101  
Abdul Telephone Repairs ..... 621101  
Jordan Telecom ..... 734111  
Radio Jordan ..... 680100  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power Company ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200  
Queen Alia Int. Airport ..... 08-53200

#### HOSPITALS

**AMMAN:**  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 61381332  
Khalil Maternity, J. Ann ..... 6442816  
Akileh Maternity, J. Ann ..... 6424411  
Ibtal Amman Maternity ..... 6432342  
Dr. Nidal Al Dahleh ..... 642440  
Palestine Shmeissani ..... 6641714  
Shmeissani Hospital ..... 6691231  
U'Zversity Hospital ..... 6488435  
Al Abdoun Hospital ..... 6441640  
The Islamic, Al-Balad ..... 6612707  
Al-Ahli, Al-Balad ..... 6541646  
Italian, Al-Mutajreen ..... 7710103  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf ..... 75311126  
Army, Marka ..... 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 602230/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 6741355  
**ZARQA:**  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital ..... (09)93323  
Zarqa National Hospital ..... (09)9000560  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)886732  
Al Hikma Modern Hospital ..... (09)990970  
**IRBD:**  
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)275535  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)27275  
Ibn Al Nafis Hospital ..... (02)27100

#### AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital ..... (03)214111

#### FOR THE TRAVELLER

##### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

**DEPARTURES**  
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)  
05:45 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
07:30 ..... Agaba (RJ)  
10:45 ..... Abu Dhabi, Al'Ain (RJ)  
10:45 ..... Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)  
11:00 ..... Montreal, Toronto (RJ)  
11:00 ..... Rome (RJ)  
11:45 ..... Larnaca, Athens (RJ)  
11:55 ..... Paris (RJ)  
06:00 ..... Sanaa (RJ)  
07:20 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
07:30 ..... Agaba (RJ)  
09:45 ..... Riyadh (RJ



## Major announces first fruits of Northern Ireland peace

BELFAST (R) — British Prime Minister John Major said Wednesday large investment projects by British, U.S. and Japanese firms were the first economic fruits of Northern Ireland's new-found peace.

At a Belfast investment conference called to cash in on a "peace dividend" after rival guerrillas laid down their arms, Mr. Major said optimism in the province was at its highest for 25 years and appealed to business leaders for more investment.

He said the dogged determination shown by Northern Ireland's people during times of violence was the most compelling reason for them to invest in the province now peace had come.

"What terror knocked down, the brave people of Northern Ireland have rebuilt, in some cases again and again," Mr. Major told more than 250 delegates from 13 countries.

"They testify to the determination and enterprise of Northern Ireland's people, to human qualities which cannot be taught or manufactured."

"You will find these human qualities the most compelling reason of all for tak-

ing a stake in Northern Ireland."

U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown backed him, telling reporters after the meeting: "People expect their lives to change when peace comes and you have to be prepared to meet those expectations."

The forum is the latest step in a rapid but fragile peace process which formally began a year ago Thursday with the Downing Street Declaration, a joint Anglo-Irish peace plan.

But the meeting was shunned by the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein, whose six local councillors picketed it in protest at the half-hearted invitation Britain made them at the last minute.

Sinn Fein, which last week sat down with British officials for the first formal talks for more than 70 years as a reward for the Irish Republican Army's (IRA) ceasefire on Sept. 1, said it was being discriminated against. Britain denied this.

British officials are to talk Thursday to allies of Protestant guerrillas, the IRA's arch-enemies, who announced their own true in

October.

They want Northern Ireland to stay British. The IRA, backed by some of the province's Catholic minority, fought for 25 years to end British rule and Ireland's seven decades of partition.

The troubles turned a booming, industrialised economy into one dependent on British state hand-outs and public-sector jobs. Mr. Major hopes peace could restore it to its former glory.

Mr. Major announced that the five companies from Britain, the United States and Japan had decided to invest a total of £60 million (\$94 million) in the province.

The biggest investment, just over half that sum, will come from telecommunications giant British Telecom whose office expansion projects will create more than 100 new jobs.

Ford cars, the chemicals giant Du Pont and Naco Forklift truckmakers are bringing the U.S. investment and Japan's Fujitsu computer group has also announced plans for the province.

Mr. Major also said Britain will launch an initiative to get the long-term unemployed in the province back to work

with a community work programme which will give 1,000 of them "stimulating and meaningful work" over the next two years.

Northern Ireland is a jobs blackspot with unemployment at 12.7 per cent.

Relying on U.S. criticisms that minority Catholics were still discriminated against by employers in the province, Mr. Major pledged: "Ensuring the fairest possible employment conditions is an essential objective for the British government."

Mr. Brown, heading a strong American delegation to the forum, said he was convinced the economic problems could be solved.

He said he had studied apparently intractable economic problems in many parts of the world such as Russia and the Middle East. "This is one that I think is doable," he told reporters.

Mr. Brown welcomed Mr. Major's commitment to end job discrimination. "The fact that Mr. Major raised in his speech was, I think, very important. It is clearly one of the most serious underlying problems. Discrimination leaves many scars," he said.



**MEMORIAL DAY:** Relatives of Bangladeshi intellectuals, killed on the eve of independence, including teachers, doctors and journalists killed by Bangladesh's 1971 independence after a Pakistani army and militiamen, two days of bloody liberation war against Pakistan, lay before their surrender on Dec. 16, 1971 to the Indian-backed Liberation Army (AFP photo)

Bangladesh observes its 23rd Shahid Intel-

## Lang says 'probably' will not stand

PARIS (AFP) — Former Culture Minister Jack Lang,

tipped as the French left's front runner for presidential elections next spring after Jacques Delors pulled out, said Wednesday he "probably" will not stand as a candidate.

Mr. Lang, who has emerged as the most popular leftist figure after the withdrawal of the European Commission president from the race at the weekend, said the left should take its time in deciding its next step.

Asked on French radio: "So you won't be a candidate?" Mr. Lang replied: "That's your prediction, and you are probably not wrong," adding: "We have to reflect, take our time, not rush into things."

Mr. Delors' pullout has shattered the French left, which was counting on him as the only credible electable candidate to take on rightist likely candidates Prime Minister Edouard Balladur and Paris Mayor Jacques

Chirac.

In opinion polls published since Mr. Delors' announcement Mr. Lang, a Euro-MP,

has consistently appeared as

the most popular alternative

with voters, although he

would still not beat Mr. Balladur or Mr. Chirac, according to the polls.

Mr. Lang Wednesday

echoed comments by maverick politician Bernard Tapie

made the previous evening for

the left to rally round a single

candidate to avoid the risk of

splitting its support.

"I think it is a good idea to

gather together people who

have ideas, proposals," he

said, praising Mr. Tapie's

"combativeness and ener-

gy."

Mr. Tapie, also tipped as a

possible candidate, said

Tuesday he was not a candi-

date, but declined to rule out

running if the struggle within

the French left could not be

resolved.

Meanwhile, French law-

makers overnight voted in

favour of sweeping changes

in the funding of politicians.

## QE2 leaves Hamburg after \$45 refit

HAMBURG, Germany (R) — Cunard Line's Queen Elizabeth II luxury liner left the north German port city of Hamburg Wednesday after a 22-day, \$45 million refit. The almost 300-metre-long ocean liner left the dry dock at the Blohm Voss Shipyard in the early hours and set sail for Southampton, England, where it was to undergo sea trials. All five restaurants and 900 cabins on the 13-storey ship have been revamped. Bathrooms were redecorated and some inlaid with marble. The final touches, such as laying carpets, were due to be taken care of en route to Britain. Cunard launched the refit in New York on Nov. 14 by donating 1,500 pieces of used furniture to a U.S. charity. The QE2's new trappings include 2,252 new light fixtures, 12 pieces of commissioned art work and 10,000 pints of lager stocked in a new English pub, the Golden Lion. Launched in 1967, the ship already has a 40-car garage, its own newspaper, 13 lifts and a crew of 1,000.

## Court gag stops papers naming lottery winner

LONDON (AFP) — Camelot, the company that runs Britain's National Lottery, obtained an injunction for bidding the Daily Mirror and the Sun from identifying this week's £18 million (\$27 million) winner. Camelot said it had obtained an injunction restraining Mirror Group Newspapers and News International from publishing directly or indirectly the identity of the winner, said to be a factory worker, living in a terraced house in northern England. "Camelot" is advised that it would be contempt of court for any other publication to similarly disclose the individual's identity.

The measures were agreed by 117 out of 143 deputies present for the late-night vote, with 26 abstaining. The turnout was exceptional for such a sitting.

In particular banning corporate financing in a move intended to clean up sleaze in political life.

The National Assembly meeting in late night session, also agreed to increase public funding of parties and candidates and to lower the ceiling on allowed expenses.

The anti-corruption measures, which will be discussed by the Senate next week, were proposed by the government in the wake of a recent wave of scandals involving politicians, including ministers.

In particular the MPs agreed to public funding of 50 per cent of election expenses, while lowering the ceiling on such expenses by 30 per cent. The latter measure was in effect imposed on them by Interior Minister Charles Pasqua.

The measures were agreed by 117 out of 143 deputies present for the late-night vote, with 26 abstaining. The turnout was exceptional for such a sitting.

The Sun Wednesday refrained from identification, but claimed the winner was a married Asian factory worker in his early 30s with three sons, who called in sick Monday, after winning the largest prize ever offered for a game of chance in Britain Saturday.

The tabloid gave details of the winner's lifestyle and neighbours' reactions over three pages with partially blacked out pictures of his home, hearing the word "Censored" across the middle.

In a statement, the IFP said the chief's Tuesday had been merely seeking an audience with King Zwelithini and rejected ANC claims that they tried to "march on one of the royal residences."

The statement further described as "mischievous," claims that King Zwelithini's safety had been under threat.

The ANC, the IFP added, was meddling in the affairs of the Zulu royal house and had succeeded in isolating King Zwelithini from his subjects.

King Zwelithini's spokesman, Prince Sifiso Zulu, Tuesday accused Mr. Buthelezi and the IFP of manipulating the chief's in order to pressure the king.

The march, Prince Sifiso added, was "intended to mislead the nation as if the Amakhosi (the chiefs) are rebelling against the king."

He maintained the king was not at odds with his chiefs, who were welcome to approach him provided the correct channels were followed.

delegation of chiefs Friday,

claiming he was acting under doctor's orders not to attend meetings.

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Prehistoric tree species found in Australian gorge

SYDNEY (R) — Thirty-nine trees related to a species that existed 150 million years ago have been found west of Sydney, but the New South Wales government Wednesday said it would keep their exact location secret to ensure their safety. The previously unknown trees, some measuring 40 metres tall and three metres in diameter, are in a deep gorge in the Wollomombi National Park, about 200 kilometres west of Sydney in the Blue Mountains.

Director of the Sydney Botanic Gardens, Garry Chisholm, said the only other discovery of kind was made in 1944 when another prehistoric tree species was found in China.

National Parks and Wildlife Service officer David Noble came across the trees while exploring a 600-metre deep gorge in the park in August. "Initially I didn't think it was anything new but I just thought it was something different," Mr. Noble said Wednesday. The trees, covered in dense, waxy foliage with distinctive bulbous bark, occupy a tiny 5,000 square metres of ground of prehistoric rainforest in the 500,000-hectare (123,000-acre) park. So far 23 adults and 16 juveniles have been found, making it also one of the world's rarest plants.

## Pakistan Shi'ite leader warns of Karachi bloodbath

KARACHI, Pakistan (R) — A militant Shi'ite Muslim leader Wednesday urged the government to move quickly to stem religiously motivated attacks in Karachi, where at least 92 people have been killed this month.

"The government should act fast to prevent the spread of sectarian violence or Karachi will witness another bloodbath," Hassan Turabi, general secretary of the Tebraki Jafria Pakistan (TJP) group, told Reuters by telephone.

"We are finding it difficult to hold back our men from taking action against the killers of their brothers," he said, blaming a rival Sunni Muslim group for attacks on TJP workers.

He was speaking one day after gunmen killed three Shiites in separate incidents.

Police said two gunmen broke into the clinic of a 35-year-old doctor known as a TJP supporter in central Karachi Tuesday and shot him dead in front of his horrified patients.

The bullet-riddled body of a TJP activist who had been kidnapped earlier was found at a nearby construction site.

Another TJP militant was shot dead in a central area and a Shi'ite man was killed in eastern Karachi Tuesday morning.

Mr. Turabi accused the radical Sunni faction Sipah Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) of killing a total of 14 TJP party workers since gunmen sprayed bullets at a Sunni mosque Thursday.

Mr. Mandella invited the Zulu chiefs to discuss complaints that his African National Congress (ANC) was interfering in provincial matters in KwaZulu-Natal.

The king refused to meet a

## Mandela intervenes in row between Buthelezi, Zulu king

PRETORIA (AFP) — South African President Nelson Mandela Tuesday intervened in a simmering row between Home Affairs Minister Mangosuthu Buthelezi and Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini, Mr. Mandella's office said in a statement.

At the heart of the row are claims by Mr. Buthelezi and the IFP that, since historic all-race elections in April, King Zwelithini has been manipulated by ANC-aligned Zulu advisers.

The king has repeatedly snubbed requests by Mr. Buthelezi, KwaZulu-Natal Premier Frank Mdala and the chiefs to meet him and no longer treats Mr. Buthelezi as his traditional prime minister.

Until the election, which was won by the ANC, King Zwelithini was in Mr. Buthelezi's pocket because the Zulu leader, as head of the now-defunct KwaZulu tribal homeland, paid his salary.

He received an undertaking from Chief Buthelezi that he would seek to stop the march," Mr. Mandella said.

Mr. Mandella invited the Zulu chiefs to discuss complaints that his African National Congress (ANC) was interfering in provincial matters in KwaZulu-Natal.

Both King Zwelithini's office is now funded by the central government and the monarch has moved quickly into the ANC camp.

The king refused to meet a

grouping in Japan, could be the start of a two-party system after nearly four decades of one-party rule by the LDP.

Car makers will make political contributions to the three parties through the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association (JAMA), a JAMA official said.

JAMA, which groups 13 automobile makers, had been making political contributions to the LDP and the Democratic Socialist Party (DSP) until last year.

In response to requests by political parties, they plan to make contributions to one or more of the alternatives — the new opposition group, the LDP, or the Sakigake Party.

The LDP and Sakigake are partners in the Socialist-led coalition.

Both the New Frontier Party and Sakigake consist largely of parliamentarians who have broken away from the LDP over the past year and a half.

Pundits say the emergence of the New Frontier Party, the second-largest political

yen (\$500,000), a Nippon Steel spokesman said.

Mr. Saito, who is also chairman of the Japan Iron and Steel Federation, said the federation would leave each company in the group to decide to a plan on political contributions.

Banks including Sumitomo Bank Ltd are likely to



## Jordan Times

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## Past age of settlements

**ISRAELI PLANS** for a massive Jewish settlement in northern Jerusalem are of utmost concern to not only Arab inhabitants in the Holy City area but also the Arab countries involved in the peace process with the Jewish state.

The plans, as reported in the Jerusalem Post newspaper a couple of days ago, would mean, on the one hand, the perpetuation of the Israeli policy of encircling Arab residents, thus preventing them from expanding their presence on their own and lawful property, and, on the other, applying enough pressure on the Arabs to eventually force them out of the city and its environs. Indeed, the plans renew Arab fears about the continuation of Israel's expansionist policies at the expense of Arab rights and reinforce the accusations that Israel never was serious about its pledge to discuss the issue of Jerusalem in the final status talks.

The Palestine-Israel Oslo deal and the subsequent Cairo agreement which pledge eventual Israeli withdrawal from the rest of the occupied Arab lands of Palestine, would seem pointless as long as the Jewish settlements continue to exist and expand amidst the Arab population centres.

Needless to say that plans for new Israeli colonies in the West Bank make a mockery of a pledge given by the Israeli government to the U.S. administration that the \$10 billion loan guarantees, payments from which Israel continues to receive, would not be utilised to finance the creation of more settlements. Should the latest plans go ahead and the actual building of settlements take place, not only would the local population choke, but the whole peace process would be in real jeopardy.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday discussed the question of the Palestinian refugees in light of the meeting going on in Turkey, of the working group on refugees, part of the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process, noting that despite the lapse of more than four decades since the Palestinian tragedy, the world community is failing to do the refugees justice. The Palestinian refugees' problem lies at the heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict and unless it is resolved the whole Middle East region would remain deprived of stability and security, said Ibrahim Al Absi. More than 40 nations are gathered at Antakia, in Turkey, to discuss a solution for the refugee issue, but no one has heard about their real mission and whether any progress has been achieved towards serving the refugees' just cause, said the writer. Without a just solution to the Palestine problem, the seeds of conflict remain deeply rooted in the area and without the implementation of U.N. resolutions, the region can enjoy no genuine or lasting peace, added the writer. He said mere meetings and announcements that delegations from 40 nations are gathering to discuss the refugees' issue can by no means settle this chronic problem.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Wednesday lauded current moves on the part of voluntary groups and the Ministry of Social Development towards advancing the position of Jordanian women, especially those living in the rural regions, but said what is being done is not enough. Sabah Madani said that many women in rural regions are hindered from advancing their standing by economic difficulties and social taboos, in some cases, and are deprived of proper training to help them earn a living or eradicate their illiteracy. Government institutions concerned with advancing the status of women should join hands with the voluntary groups in launching regular and consistent programmes to spread education, vocational training in trades most needed by the local market.

## VIEW FROM ACADEMIA

### Students who need help are many, but who helps them?

AMONG THE many impediments which stand in the way of effective performance by students at college level is the poor quality of their educational experience and background prior to their admission. The school years, the so-called elementary and preparatory stages, greatly shape and determine the degree of benefit students derive from higher education and the nature of the obstacles and problems they encounter. To help our students overcome such impediments, obstacles and problems, our higher education institutions (colleges and universities alike) ought to pay more attention than they do to students' prior experience and background as a factor influencing the educational process negatively.

There is a widespread feeling among instructors in the various disciplines at our higher colleges and universities that newly admitted fall extremely short of our expectations and are way below the standards. I am not speaking here about subjects which students in the earlier stages find "difficult," say English and math, but about all subjects. The newcomers suffer from "weakness" (this is the term we use) in all the fields they choose to major in: English, Arabic, history, sociology, finance, physics, math, engineering, medicine, you name it.

The percentage of those considered "weak" is quite high. With some exceptional cases in this or that discipline or field or at this or that institution, the percentage of weak students ranges from 65 to 75 of the total number of students. By "weakness" we mean several things at once. "Weakness" means that students' knowledge of the material in the individual subject they study is poor, that their ability to digest new material and internalise it (rather than simply memorise) is unsatisfactory, that their commitment to the fields they specialise in (preparation, participation in discussions, enthusiasm for learning) and their appreciation of them are almost entirely absent, that their attitude towards education as a whole is extremely amateurish and dismissive, etc.

The sad thing is that, as things stand at present, most of those who come to colleges and universities "weak" graduate weak. Very little education happens, and very little change occurs. The reasons are manifold, some are understandable others are not. Understandably, colleges and universities have certain levels and certain standards below which they cannot descend and on which they cannot compromise. This is not only their right, but in fact their duty. We do want to aim high, for the sake of the minority

of students (a significant minority, mind you) who have the potential to excel (and in fact do), with whom one wants to break new ground and reach deeper frontiers and for the sake of the integrity of higher education itself. The lower the standard, the poorer the quality of education. Furthermore, the nature of higher education is such that most instructors (and quite rightly to a great extent) are preoccupied most of the time with the material of the specific course or seminar that they have very little time (if any) in the class to devote to problems which can only be solved outside the classroom, especially since many of these problems are psychological and sociological.

But there are two other reasons which we ought to confront and do something about. The first has to do with the size of the class. Generally, classes at our colleges and universities (with the exception of many private colleges and universities) are quite large. In many courses (including those whose nature presupposes smaller numbers, such as writing, translation, oral skills, etc.), the number of students actually enrolled is outrageously high. The second has to do with our familiarity with the problem and with the lack of serious interest, determination and will to do something about it. All instructors and academic decision-makers at our colleges and universities are aware of the students' background as a problem, but very few are attempting seriously to do so something about it.

We need to take into account two points if we are to tackle the matter at hand and attempt a remedy:

1. In addition to reducing the number of students enrolled in the various courses, and thus giving instructors the opportunity to get to know their students better and diagnose their problems more accurately, we ought to change our attitude and our stance vis-à-vis the weakness of background. We may not be able, in the end, to fix all the gaps and loopholes and to correct all the mistakes and errors which students have inherited over the years, but we can certainly fix and correct many of them. The way things stand now, we seem to have a helpless and submissive attitude. This is wrong, I believe that the first thing we need to do, if we want to really help these students (who truly need our help) is to think more positively, to change our negative attitude and to seriously do something. To sit and lament, as we currently do, is no use. Where there is a will there is a way.

2. We must distinguish between two types of "weak" students. The first type includes those whose "problems"

can be dealt with and fixed through the various courses they take. The second comprises those who need ample time outside the classroom, for they need more serious attention, assistance and help. The former are those who have the potential to excel, but for a variety of reasons have not realised the potential. They may have been a bit lazy, unmotivated and uninterested. However, they are still fresh and healthy. All they need is some incentive, encouragement and a bit of guidance. Hit the right button and they begin to function, learn and progress. The latter are those who have experienced a major "damage" (I can't think of a better word) and need thorough diagnosis and long-term treatment. Students belonging to this category have, in addition to lack of command of the very basics (for example, students wishing to major in English who write "he is gas to school and knows many knowledge" -- I am not making this up), a serious attitude problem. Either they think that they are much better qualified than they really are and refuse to admit that they have a weakness, or they think they are absolutely helpless and impossible to improve and develop. "We have tried," they say, "and it does not work."

My tennis coach said something to me a few years back which applies perfectly here. He'd rather, he says, teach those who have not played tennis before than those who have. Those who have, either think they know how to play, when everything they do is incorrect (the way they hold the racket, swing their arms, hit the ball, etc.) or they think they can never master the game. The impediments here are psychological.

Our colleges and universities must schedule time outside lecture hall for students with serious weaknesses. We can create workshops, seminars, group discussions (all in small numbers) to focus on the various obstacles and impediments which lurk behind what we call "weakness." The atmosphere must be as informal, friendly, cheerful and healthy as possible. This can be done either as part of the students' study load, after they (of course) plan it, ahead of time with advisors chosen specially for the task and after agreeing with them to reduce the study load to make room for such workshops or seminars.

Just as we have a commitment to the excelling students, we have a commitment to those we call weak. It is not enough for us to hide them, preach to them, evaluate them and fail them, they need tangible help inside and outside the classroom.

## Chechenya — a Bosnia in the making

By Dr. Mohydeen I. Quandour

The speedy disintegration of the former Soviet Union has to dangerous conditions which are beginning to threaten the dissolution of the Russian Federation itself. What has transpired in the last three eventful months is difficult to comprehend unless one has seen the workings of the glasnost and perestroika era's action during the time of Mikhail Gorbachev. Regardless of what many old-guard Soviet politicians think of him, regardless of what the newly freed Russian media labels him, regardless of all accolades and retractions, Mr. Gorbachev's slow programme of liberalisation now appears to have been based on solid logic. The Chinese Communist Party learned Mr. Gorbachev's lesson and applied it successfully. Reform and slow democratisation are working in China.

It was exactly this type of chaos that Mr. Gorbachev worked hard to avoid. But he was deceived by the very people he appointed as guardians of the new reform programme and the gradual liberalisation policies which were the mainstay of his political debate. In this respect, the West is in large measure to blame for not understanding his objectives and for not helping him materially when he most needed it. History may judge him much more fairly than his own people. The present "atmosphere of crisis" in Russia is brought on by one urgent dilemma. The dissolution of the former Soviet Union is largely illegal. The constitution of the union was ignored and the

new replacement constitution is not functioning as it should. Without some legal basis for citizenship and order, the very fiber of Russian political institutions is at risk.

A unique situation has arisen in the new commonwealth: the former USSR's external borders are being reliably guarded by a collective army, even though no one is attempting to encroach upon them. At the same time, the transparent internal frontiers are on the brink of revision. The collapse of the Soviet empire has produced three dozen unsettled territorial disputes.

About a dozen conflicts are particularly serious and could possibly devolve into war, as it has already happened to the Karabakh dispute and the Abkhazia/Georgia war. The current events in the north Caucasus, namely Chechenya, is another serious development. There is every likelihood that Chechenya might become another Afghanistan. If it does, then history is repeating itself and the possibility of the fire spreading to the neighbouring Caucasian republics becomes real. Volunteers have already arrived at Grozny from neighbouring republics, namely from Ingushetia and from Dagestan. The families of Grozny have all moved up to the mountains with all their belongings and supplies. Grozny is today a city of fighting men. The 260 tanks the Russians are advancing cannot climb mountains and will be useless in a mountain warfare, as they have dis-

covered in Afghanistan.

In one respect these Russian problems — both existing and potential — are not unique. Practically everywhere after the disintegration of empires (Spanish, Ottoman, French, British) the development of conflicts proceed in line with the same pattern: first the latent period, with underlying claims but no economic or political excuse to start attacking them out. The situation is aggravated when either minerals unearthened on disputed territories or the rulers in power need new trumps. This is then followed by corresponding statements from politicians and "patriotic"

articles in the official press. Then two or three clashes between the would-be parties in the dispute occur; at best they are diplomatic, at worst — combat along the border. And last, the dispute is put on record as such.

Present-day interpretation of international law recommends that at an early stage of the dispute it be settled in the framework of the regional organisation to which one or another state belongs. For instance, in accordance with the 1948 Inter-American Treaty on Pacific Settlement of Disputes, the Organisation of American States prefers to act as the go-between in territorial conflicts and not to

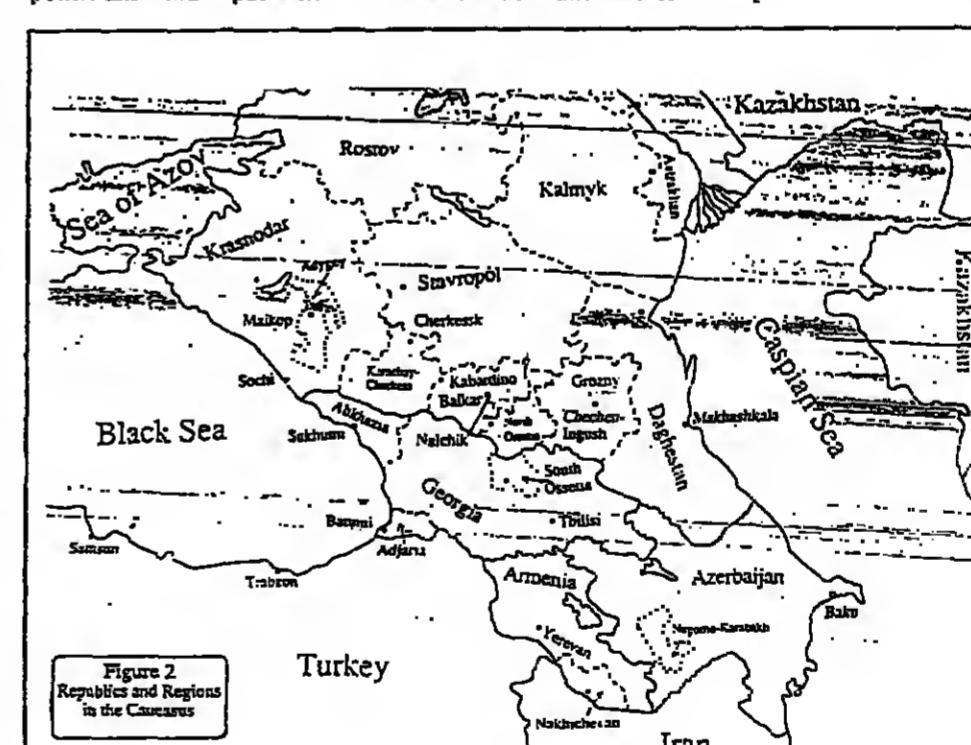


Figure 2  
Republics and Regions in the Caucasus

## Russia risks starting war across the Caucasus

By Timothy Heritage  
Reuter

MOSCOW — Russian President Boris Yeltsin has launched Moscow's biggest and most dangerous military offensive in 15 years by sending troops to Chechenya, at the risk of starting a war across the Caucasus.

Mr. Yeltsin, hungry for success on the home front after being humbled at a European security summit last week, has staked his authority and his political future on a quick victory to end Chechenya's three-year bid for independence.

But the early signs are that Mr. Yeltsin has isolated himself from liberal and reformist politicians in Moscow, the military advance is not going smoothly and there is a real danger of igniting the Caucasus tinderbox.

"What is brewing in Chechenya will not end positively. There is a chance of a long Caucasian war," Grigory Yavlinsky, leader of the liberal Yabloko political group, said on Monday. Former Soviet leader

Mikhail Gorbachev, Mr. Yeltsin's arch rival, said such a war was unwinnable. "The guerrilla war will not be fought in the capital but in the mountains. And not only in the Chechen mountains but in the whole of the northern Caucasus," Mr. Gorbachev said in an interview published by the Italian newspaper *La Stampa* on Tuesday.

Mr. Yeltsin says Russia is acting within its legal rights to restore the constitutional order in the mainly Muslim area and protect Russian citizens. He said bloodshed should be avoided.

He sent thousands of troops and hundreds of tanks and other armoured vehicles into Chechenya in Moscow's biggest military action since the Soviet Union intervened in Afghanistan in 1979.

But clashes with Chechen rebels on Monday and with forces in neighbouring Ingushetia on Sunday as the troops headed for Chechenya suggested a quick and smooth victory was unlikely.

"The whole operation is very risky. Until now, the

many commentators fear

Mr. Yeltsin could drag Russia into a conflict as difficult and as dangerous as the war in Afghanistan, where 13,000 Soviet soldiers were killed.

pathisers from elsewhere. "The war would consolidate a united anti-Russian Islamic front in Russia and in the near- and far-abroad," the daily newspaper *Izvestia* said.

It could also trigger a chain reaction of defiance along the Caucasus "fault line" on Russia's southern rim by uniting the peoples of the region through opposition to Moscow.

"A war in Chechenya, it spread around the whole of the Caucasus, terrorist acts in Russia, an all Russia emergency with the abolition of elections and the elimination of all democratic institutions, these are the most likely scenarios."

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# Weekender

Dec. 15, 1994

Published Every Thursday

## Theatre festival postponed; but who foots the bill?

By Mohammad Mashariqa

Jordanian theatre festivals normally present an opportunity to the scholars and the critics to monitor progress in the Jordanian theatre movement.

Ever since the start of the Gulf War, which saw the closure of Gulf markets for Jordanian television production, Jordanian theatre has been witnessing a noticeable rebirth, largely due to the return of well-known actors and actresses to the stage.

Indeed, theatre groups have since been able to present to the public very successful works of art, reflecting the skill of the producers and the directors who excelled especially in classical themes and in satirical comedies.

These artists included Sawsan Darwazeh, Khaled Tarifi, Fathi Abdul Rahman, Nader Omran, Vesna Mashariqa and Hakim Harb among others.

In the past three years Jordanian theatre work won very high praise at pan-Arab festivals where critics hailed the Jordanian skills that won the Kingdom several awards.

The success has prompted theatre groups to step up their activities and to organise seminars to discuss ways of further promoting theatre work and win the favour of audiences.

Luckily this year the Gulf markets slightly opened their doors for Jordanian theatre and artistic works, following arduous and relentless efforts.

Meanwhile, five of our theatre directors have submitted scripts for this year's third Jordanian Theatre Festival and made ample preparations through training and workshops from last September.

One of the directors, Khaled Tarifi said: "Directing theatre is a source of joy for me because I have always worked for theatre and I am obsessed with this kind of art work. I realise that acting requires a great deal of training and preparation and so I embarked on this hard and arduous task with all my might since the early 1980s."

### AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

"Despite the hard work of preparing for the third festival with all that it entails of sacrifice and skillful training, we were dismayed to bear the Higher Festival Committee's announcement about the postponement of this long-awaited festival until the spring of 1995."

"The artists, the actors, the directors and the producers all raised the hue and cry and strongly protested the delay noting that everything was almost ready for the festival," noted Tarifi who added that the postponement was "unreasonable and unacceptable to anyone."

Vesna Mashariqa told me that everything was ready for the third festival including the costumes, the music, the decor and the lighting.

We have borrowed sums of money to be repaid after the festival said Vesna, noting that the Ministry of Culture had made a grant of JD 3,500 for the festival which she said "was not sufficient to cover expenses incurred by volunteer actors who have been working with me for 80 days."

"How does the higher committee dare to put off the festival in this arbitrary manner. It is totally unreasonable and illogical," she added.

Hatem Al Sayed, director of the theatre at the Ministry of Culture, responds to these questions by saying: "We have informed all the directors and artists and actors that they should first join the Artist Association."

"We also tried to convince everyone that due to the severe weather conditions it would be advisable to postpone the festival's date, but they turned down the idea and we are trying to persuade them to accept it," added Mr. Sayed.

I have pointed to Mr. Sayed that it was illogical to ask the artists to join the association only two weeks before the date the festival was due to start and also reminded him that he was going to Cairo to attend the Egyptian festival there soon. But he replied that his trip to Cairo has nothing to do with the festival

here, adding that he had already informed the actors and the directors of the Higher Committee's decision beforehand, and it was their own fault for failing to comply.

Mohammad Barmawi, the head of the association, who was enthusiastic about the postponement of the festival and who plans to leave for Cairo too, said that he supported the postponement due to the bad weather conditions and also because some of the actors and directors have failed to join the association yet.

When I asked how can the association destroy the efforts of artists which lasted for over two months, he replied that he was trying to be of assistance but the Higher Committee's decision was final.

Before this article sees the light, the four men who decided to cancel the festival this year will have travelled to Cairo.

But those who stood to bear the damage and are dismayed by the decision asked: "Who would pay for the dress makers, the carpenters, the studios, the music and the actors."

Tarifi swore that he would abandon theatre work for good. Fathi Abdul Rahman described the situation as "an unprecedented farce" while Vesna commented by saying that "this situation was similar to a madhouse or a lunatic asylum and not an atmosphere for promoting the work of creative people."

## SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

### Looking for an A team



Charles Richards in the new Arabic newsroom at BBC Television Centre in London.

While Jordan and Israel opened their first ever embassies in Tel Aviv and Amman this past week, Jordan's Ambassador-designate to Israel Marwan Muasher said he was still trying to assemble his team. The search, he said, is for three diplomats from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, three other staff of diplomatic rank to include a press, commercial and very probably a tourism attaché, some research staff and administrative personnel. Already on board are Ramez Quosso and Omar Nahar. Speculation about who is being considered points to junior as well as veteran cadres. It is suspected that some "outside" suggestions will be shot down by the "selection committee" as too sensitive. Nevertheless, the wait should be short as Dr. Muasher expects his move to Tel Aviv is but a month away. And while the other search continues for a permanent site for the embassy, he and his staff will be housed in the Dan Hotel for several months.

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**OTHER DIPLOMATS ON THE GO:** Not only Israel is to get a Jordanian ambassador; Portugal too is said to be expecting a senior "Jordanian" envoy of a sort, by virtue of his lengthy tenure in Amman, which practically entitles him to citizenship. Although the appointment is still unconfirmed, this "true friend of Jordan" will be at a distinct advantage in that he is already fluent in Portuguese. The envoy in question is Pakistani Ambassador Tareq Khan Afridi.

Norwegian Ambassador Tove Kijewski hosted a dinner which, intentionally or not, turned out to be a send off for Jordan's long-time honorary consul to Oslo George Khoury. Khoury, who did not seem to mind the Nordic winds over his 30-or-so-year tenure, mused that he would always consider himself as Jordan's envoy to this part of Scandinavia for all the warmth he and his family became accustomed to there.

Wheels up for British embassy political officer Mark Le Goy who flies out of Amman today ending his three-year posting. An active, get-out-there diplomat, Le Goy will spend three months as commercial attaché in Morocco, then return to England for a yet unknown assignment. Having witnessed a rather eventful term here, Le Goy still admits that his favourite experience was driving in the 1993 National Rally with his partner, then Ambassador Patrick Evers. Others thought it would have been the midnight bolt out to Madaba to congratulate the Beni Hamideh candidate on his election to Parliament. But whatever it was, au revoir, Mark.

Le Goy is succeeded in Amman by Gregor Lusty who is on his first Foreign Office assignment abroad.

★ ★ ★

**BBC ARABISATION:** And the Govt will not have to miss everything about Jordan because BBC Worldwide Television recently announced the appointment of one of its former Middle East reporters, Charles Richards, as the first editor of its Arabic news operation. Richards, who was among the throng of foreign reporters sent to Amman during the Gulf crisis, was The Independent's correspondent in Jerusalem and Rome, and more recently its Middle East editor. He is now based in the new Arabic newsroom at BBC Television Centre in London. The Arabic news operation supplies news programming for the BBC's Arabic news and information channel.

"The BBC is the first foreign broadcaster to set up an entire television news operation in a language other than its own and our output has already grown to broadcasting eight bulletins daily," said Johan Ramsland, editor of BBC World Service Television News. "Charles' wealth of knowledge and experience of Middle East affairs makes him the ideal person to guide the development of our Arabic television news as it moves to a 24-hour schedule."

The BBC's Worldwide Television Arabic language channel began broadcasting on the Orbit Television and Radio network across the Middle East and North Africa for two hours daily last June. But, here in Jordan the costs are said to be prohibitive, and only those fortunately-equipped boob-tube addicts can tune in to the new programme.

Richards' appointment comes amid the BBC's search for an Arabic television news correspondent in Jordan. The person selected for the job would have to work "hand-in-hand" with the BBC's Amman-based English news correspondent, Lyse Dusette, described affectionately by her colleagues as "workaholic Lysette." BBC's ideal candidate was most probably their very own Jordanian correspondent Salameh Nematt. But Nematt's penchant for doing a multitude of other things and his attachment to his favourite job as the Amman correspondent for the London-based Al Hayat Arabic daily were more than likely too comfortable to abandon.

★ ★ ★

While the head-bunting for the well-paying position proceeds, Al Hayat has some explaining to do over not going beyond having Nematt as correspon-

dent. Nearly a year ago the paper's chief editor Jihad Khazen got the green light from the government of Jordan to print his newspaper from Amman, but so far nothing has materialised. Sources, who said the idea behind this step is to get the paper to the West Bank and Gaza, claim the feasibility of the endeavour is still being studied. The primary determining factor appears to be where indeed it would be easier to publish from. Al Hayat says it has faced some clipped press freedoms here in Jordan. But on the West Bank the press has been shut down altogether at times. The publishers would like to see their paper reach the readers on the same day, but from which side of the river will the presses roll is still "up in the air."

Al Hayat, which began publishing in Oct. 1988, now prints from six cities: London, New York, Frankfurt, Beirut, Manama, and Cairo. That beats the Herald Tribune which prints only out of Paris. Although the paper has extended itself heavily in capital investments and has been running in the red since its inception, its funding sources, which are a highly kept secret, are undaunted by the long wait to the break-even point and finally on to profit.

Al Hayat distributing straight from Amman may be threatening enough to some media moguls, but the air smells of even more competition.

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**THE ONE EVERYONE'S BEEN GUESSING ABOUT:** It's confirmed. Lower House of Parliament Deputy and former Prime Minister Taher Masri and a group of other influential businesspersons are seriously planning to start a daily Arabic newspaper, which, judging from Mr. Masri's description, could give other dailies in town a run for their money. Although still in the primary stages, Mr. Masri said, the plan is to print a daily that would balance three major areas of interest, politics, economics and culture, all with the "highest standards of professionalism." Such an undertaking, the former prime minister admits, is a long and costly process, particularly since the investors agree that publishing a newspaper of distinction requires quality in material and human resources. The investors are apparently looking first to the success of the newspaper on the national front. If the response is positive, Mr. Masri said, they will consider distributing "across the river," i.e. the West Bank and Gaza.

Among the interested investors are Wasif Azer, a former director of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Corporation, now general manager of The Business Bank (a major investor in Al Ra'i daily), Ahmad Taher, a successful businessman, Awani Saket, former chief of the Jordanian Contractors Association, and others.

★ ★ ★

**SHE'S BACK:** With all the talk of a potential increase in press activity in town (and perhaps also prices), in flew the JT's one-and-only Sa'eda Kilani from a six-month stint at The Charlotte Observer while on an Alfred Friendly Press Fellowship. Her editors were cautiously poised to see what soothing effect six-months in the good-ole-south would have on independent-minded, women's lib activist Kilani.

Mountains to the banks of the River Danube.

The hills of Transylvania were the setting recently for a children's video Wee People set in Ireland.

Other Romanian filmmakers, who feel their output is more dignified, tend to look down on Castel Film, but Paunescu is sure he is helping to develop the local film industry.

"They will come round to appreciating us," he said confidently, thinking of the latest American technology his work is making available.

Soothing was the wrong word. Kilani returned in form much as she had left, except for the chic new coif and an imposing southern drawl. But on paper, we let her own words tell a bit of her U.S. experience and what she observed in U.S. journalistic values and practices. "The emphasis in any story or news item in my country," wrote Kilani, "is on 'personalities' rather than on 'individuals' or ordinary people as is the case here (the U.S.). Perhaps my colleagues and my editors would be willing to change this but, surprisingly enough, it might be the readers and the people themselves who would not accept such a change. Whether that is feasible or not, is not of great importance to me, frankly speaking. What is important is that I now have more guts and more confidence to write whatever stories I like — including so-called 'light' or 'fun' stories — and to defend them."

Welcome back, baby Sa'eda, maybe now you could teach us a thing or two.

★ ★ ★

**LIFE'S PASSAGES:** As with all life's passages, some are sad, some happy. Last week the Arabic print media lost a newspaper pioneer with the passing of Sadig Al Shanti. Born in 1909 in Jaffa, Mr. Shanti and his brother Ibrahim were founders of Al Difa' newspaper in the early part of this century. After 1948, Al Shanti began publishing Al Difa' in Egypt. There he also published Al Oahira (Cairo) until 1954. Mr. Shanti returned to Palestine to again publish Al Difa' until 1966, and following the 1967 war he published the daily from Amman until 1971. Mr. Shanti died in the U.S.

★ ★ ★

A wedding zafra' played for Al Ra'i reporter Issam Qadmani and his bride Dina Mbeidin last week. Issam met Dina while she was employed at the Ministry of Transportation. Dina now works for the National Aid Fund, and Issam has been writing on the transportation industry and related movements for the past four years. The rather conscientious couple took only a short honeymoon and reported back to work almost within a week of their nuptials.

★ ★ ★

**TIS THE SEASON:** The holiday season brings on movement about town and out of town. U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Robert Beecroft and his wife Mette, both former language academics at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, were said to plan Christmas dinner in Amman then head north to Damascus for a New Year's Eve revelry. Ingrid Liedgens, first secretary at the German embassy is staying put. She has drawn up an eclectic guest list for her Weihnachten party. And the Nabil and Hisham Theatre will close over the holidays as Nabil and Jackie Sawalla will join up in England with brother Nadim and his wife Bobby (who flew out of Amman Wednesday) for Christmas cheer and tales of sugar plum fairies with all the family. The theatre, which has recently started its Ah Salam, Ya Salam production in English, will be closed from Dec. 23-Jan. 11. Curtains up again on the night of Jan. 12.

Jennifer Hamarneh

## Romania offers filmmakers quality at low cost

By Francoise Michel  
Agence France Presse

BUCHAREST — Dressed as dolls or coloured balls in a Disneyworld setting, the young Romanian girls wait patiently in the cold for their walk-on parts in a children's film which an Australian producer is making near here for the U.S. market.

"A set like that one would have cost a fortune in America," said the producer, Frank Arnold.

He is shooting episodes of the video series *Josh Kirby Time Warrior* at the studios of Castel Film in

suburban Bucharest, and expects Disney Channel to be interested when the film are released next March.

"Here there is no loss of quality," Arnold said. "To make a movie offshore is far more cost-efficient than in Hollywood where the costs are continuously rising. Here we can put more value on the screen."

The set with houses like mushrooms is the work of young Romanian designer Valentin Calinescu, who is a great admirer of Hollywood productions.

"I prefer to work on American films," he said. "The wage in Romania is about \$100.

Seven young American actors are playing the main roles, including the hero Josh Kirby. There are three Romanian actors, whose voices will be dubbed for U.S. viewing.

Most of the technicians, the extras and the 70-strong dance troupe are Romanian.

Such "off-shore" filming means savings of 25 to 30 per cent over Hollywood, said Castel Film's chief Vlad Paunescu.

Romania offers American producers a variety of countryside which is rare in central Europe, ranging from the Carpathian

Mountains to the banks of the River Danube.

The hills of Transylvania were the setting recently for a children's video Wee People set in Ireland.

Other Romanian filmmakers, who feel their output is more dignified, tend to look down on Castel Film, but Paunescu is sure he is helping to develop the local film industry.

"They will come round to appreciating us," he said confidently, thinking of the latest American technology his work is making available.

A man is only as good as what he loves — Saul Bellow, Pulitzer Prize-winning American author (1915- ).

The clear-sighted do not rule the world, but they sustain and console it — Agnes Repplier, American essayist (1858-1950).

No failure, but low aim, is crime — James Russell Lowell, American editor and essayist (1819-1891).

Injustice is relatively easy to bear; what stings is justice — H.L. Mencken, American journalist, writer and editor (1880-1956).

If we would only give, just once, the same amount of reflection to what we want to get out of life that we give to the question of what to do with a two-weeks vacation, we would be startled at our false standards and the aimless procession of our busy days — Dorothy Canfield Fisher, American author and essayist (1879-1958).

## A time to buy...

By Jean-Claude Elias

Whether a personal affair or a business acquisition, the purchase of a new computer, as for any other equipment, is rarely done without careful study and thinking. The decision may be quick or it can take some time, but it is never without a certain amount of analysis, comparison and evaluation.

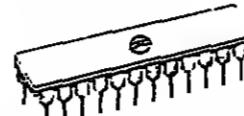
Whatever the purpose, one expects to make a good buy. Getting the most for one's money is everybody's concern. Is the machine up-to-date? How long will it last? For how much could one hope to re-sell it after a three or four years? While these questions are relatively easy to answer for "normal" hardware like a car, a TV set or a refrigerator, computers completely elude the system.

The speed of change in PCs (personal computers) technical characteristics and the continuous, astounding drop in prices make forecasts difficult. A drastic depressing, but so very realistic attitude would be to think of the machines as being completely disposable in four years from the purchase. A friend was recently offered the humiliating sum of JD 50 for his 286 PC, of which he was proud and which used to be considered a "powerful" machine only six or seven years ago.

Those who try to follow the PC market on both the technical and the financial levels, often ask themselves: "Is it the right time to buy?" "Should I wait until prices go down further?" "A new disk with a bigger capacity, or a new type of monitor is going to be released soon, maybe I should wait." With such an attitude one may as well wait for ever.

Instead of thinking how much we could have by waiting, it would make more sense to consider how much could one lose by postponing the purchase. PCs are production tools, provided, naturally, they are efficiently used. Work done on PCs is invaluable. In businesses, questions about the feasibility of using computers are not asked anymore. Even at home, the importance of being computer literate now outweighs any other consideration. The more one waits and the more one loses in terms of business,

## chip talk



missed opportunities, experience, computer awareness, and so on.

Prices will keep falling and nobody can see the end of it for the time being. Hardware will keep changing, improving. I personally have had to replace my hard disk at home three times this year: From 250 MB (megabytes or million characters) in January, up to 520 MB in August and finally 1 GB (one gigabyte or one billion bytes) this December.

To put it simply: The best time to buy a PC or any PC-related product is now. Therefore if any questions are left to resolve, it shouldn't be about when to buy but rather what to buy and how much to spend. One should also be prepared to re-invest, on a yearly basis, the equivalent of about 25 per cent of the initial purchase value, in order to upgrade a PC and keep it up-to-date. This doesn't include brand new, additional products or special options.

Such a somewhat sad state of affairs, doesn't worry businesses too much for they usually consider that the machines are money generating. In the worst case, their office equipment is legally depreciated over a five-year period. As for private, home users, those who do not buy PCs for direct profit making, many of them now think of optimising their investment — or reducing their expenditure if one prefers — by offering limited but paid services, in order to help them maintain their computer system "alive." They usually propose to do printouts for friends, process mailing lists for small companies or maintain small data bases for anyone who may need it. A wise way of making the PC support itself.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

## STRANGE BUT TRUE

- \* If a man's weight is 72.7 on earth, it becomes 18-kg at a height of 6,400-km, but on the moon he weighs 1.5-kg only.
- \* Saturn 5 rockets which were chiefly built for lunar travels, are 110 metres long.
- \* In Melbourne, Australia, a dog called "Lal" had been trained to perform jobs such as playing certain tunes, barking and producing words like "Hello" and "No". It given letters, it would rearrange them in a way so as to form its own name.
- \* There are more than 300 kinds of ice-cream sold at various world markets.
- \* Some rivers run underground. There is, for example, a river under the Nile that carries 12 times the quantity of water the Nile river would carry.

\* \* \* \* \*

## LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

- You must learn Arabic, musn't you?  
Yajib ann tata'allam al-loghal arabiya, alaysa kazalek?
- Yes, it's the language of the Glorious Qur'an.  
Na'am, innaha loghatul Qur'anil majeed.
- Is there a watchmaker in this street?  
Hal yoojad sa'ati fez haza ash'shari?
- Yes, there is one on the left side of that store.  
Na'am, bonaka waahidon alai janibil asyur lizalikal makh'zan.
- Will you direct me to this address?  
Hal laka ann tor'shidiani el-hazal onwan?
- With pleasure, sir.  
Bekolli soroor, ya sayeedi.
- Where do you wish to go?  
Ayna toored ann taz'bab?
- To the royal palaces.  
Elal qusoor al-malakiya.
- Call a taxi and tell the driver to wait.  
Otdob taxi wa qollis-sa'iq ann yantazir.
- Do you want more?  
Hal tooredol mazaez?
- No, thanks. That's quite enough.  
La, shukran, Haza yakfi.
- Can you tell me where I can find a good restaurant?  
Hal yominoka ann tokh'birani ayna astati'ann ajida mat'am'an jay'yedan?
- In the heart of the city.  
Fee qabil madeena.

\* \* \* \* \*

## INVITATION TO LAUGHTER

- \* A photographer's fair wife gave birth to a black baby. Stunned by the news, the husband cried: "What a devil! I haven't given it enough light."

\* \* \* \* \*

- \* LADY: "I have lost my dog today, officer OFFICER: "It isn't my business. I recommend you to advertise in the newspapers."

LADY: "Advertise in the papers? My dog doesn't read or write."

\* \* \* \* \*

- \* — ".....But I love you so much. I adore you and wish you could accept my proposal for marriage."
- "How can you prove you really love me?"
- "I'll drive myself into the fire for your sake, throw myself in the midst of water and hurriedly climb the ladder to..."

X	÷	= 3
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## Happiness is being a small white fish in the dark

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeeen

I was listening the other day to one of those radio wildlife programmes which, given a chance, actually leave you better informed. This one featured several men chatting in a cave about some white, eyeless fish-like creature which tends to lurk in watery pockets in the dark corners of caves. It was some casual phrase like "this little animal has been here since the age of the dinosaurs and has survived quite unchanged" which caught my ear. Apparently, it does not need light and does not need anything else much either, except water and enough nutrient in the scummy film on top of the water. It has survived for millions of years without ever doing any of those things that separate human beings from other animals, such as singing carols at Christmas, playing chess, going outdoors and pretending that going to discos is fun, or indeed, without doing anything much.

A simple life, you might think. Not so, said one of the experts. This is one of the most specialised animals he had ever come across. It was then that I suddenly realised that this eyeless white fish's speciality was just that: Being an eyeless white fish.

It was perfectly adapted to its surroundings. Being in the dark no longer bothered it. It had all the food it wanted. All the liquid. It seemed to have no enemies. It had no ambitions to have things it could not have. It was not happy, but presumably it had no concept of happiness and therefore did not mind not being happy, which is as close as you can get to being happy for an eyeless white fish.

This was a species that had evolved as far as it

needed or wanted to go and had refused all improvement grants since the day the dinosaurs had disappeared. By comparison with it, human beings are very unspecialised. We do lots of things and we do most of them badly, and the few that we do well (singing carols at Christmas, ice dancing, inventing ways of recording sound, combating hair loss) are either not worth doing or somewhat outside the demands of evolution.

Anyway, a day or two later I found myself watching a French programme on television in which I learnt that "every day 1,600,000 vehicles enter Paris. There are only 1,500,000 parking spaces in Paris."

What does this tell us about the white eyeless fish, as compared to man? The white eyeless fish would be way out ahead. It has achieved everything it set out to do, as far as cave dwelling is concerned. It has never known a parking problem. Man, on the other hand, is creating problems the further he progresses. Through over-population, pollution and idiocy, he is managing to affect all advances he has made. He invents cooking and then litters the world with McDonald's restaurants.

We are told that global warming has resumed and we may be on the way to mopping up the planet terminally, not just for humans, but for every living species. Human beings have turned out to be very good at having fun, but not at clearing up after themselves, or conserving the environment, which means that all forms of life will be doomed. Except, probably, for that white eyeless fish down in the caves. While everything disappears quietly upstairs, it will be, without knowing it, the most intelligent form of life left alive.

## JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Dec. 15

7:30 N.B.A.  
8:30 Road To Avonlea  
9:10 Tequila And Bonetti  
10:00 News In English  
10:20 Feature Film  
12:00 The Investigator

A couple of tricksters is pursued by the police after being charged with robbery.

Friday, Dec. 16

7:30 Hollywood Stuntmakers  
8:00 African Skies  
8:30 You Bet Your Life  
9:00 P.M. Magazine  
9:30 Heart Of Courage  
10:00 News In English  
10:20 Blanche

Blanche comes to odds with the widespread corruption between the church and the land authorities as she attempts to provide settlers with proper medical care.

Saturday, Dec. 17

7:30 Harry And The Hendersons  
8:00 Innovation  
Educational Programme

An educational programme on the four mathematical dimensions. The programme also highlights how much computers are instrumental in realising the fourth dimension.

8:30 Quantum Leap  
9:10 Murder She Wrote  
Who Killed JB Fletcher

Several crimes occur after a woman connives at her lover's attempts to achieve illegally material gains.

10:00 News In English  
10:20 Feature Film — Fire Storm

Starring: Levan Burton & Jill Clayburgh

A considerable loss in lives and property occurs as a result of a big fire which breaks out in Oakland.

12:00 Major Dad

Sunday, Dec. 18

7:30 McHale's Navy  
Purple Heart For Gurber

After they claim to have sunk a Japanese submarine in the Pacific Ocean, the Marines are assigned to go there again to sink another one.

8:00 The Album Show

8:30 Quantum Leap

9:10 Galactica

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Foreign Affairs

Starring: Joanne Woodward & Brian Dennehy

The film is an entertaining and touching love story of a quiet and reserved college professor and an outspoken and uneducated peasant who, despite being perfect opposites, ultimately learn how to attract.

12:00 The Upper Hand

Monday, Dec. 19

7:30 Black Beauty  
8:00 Boogies Diner  
Home Sweet Home

A homeless woman receives support despite having secretly used the store as a night shelter.

8:30 Quantum Leap

9:10 Shades Of L.A.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Grushko

With scant resources and a little respect from a cynical public, General Grushko attempts to track down a crime gang dealing in nuclear contaminated meat.

Tuesday, Dec. 20

7:30 F.B.I.: The Untold Stories  
8:00 Guide To The Universe

8:30 Quantum Leap

9:10 Cracking The Code

Freedom In The Genes

Is behaviour inherited? This programme explains why man is largely his own master with the aid of the world's largest gathering of twins, English sheepdogs and trained flies.

10:00 News In English

10:20 First Circle

As a result of the attempted treason which was uncovered, Stalin orders two imprisoned scientists to invent a new system for deciphering codes.

Wednesday, Dec. 21

7:30 Home Improvement

Wild Kingdom

Tim pretends he doesn't fear snakes after he finds one in his house.

8:00 Life In The Freezer

The Race To Bree

The programme is a view on some microscopic animals which, though frozen in winter, melt, feed, and breed during a brief period of 24-hour daylight.

8:30 Quantum Leap

9:10 Law And Order

Forgiveness

The police investigates the murder of a girl who was severely beaten on the head.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Snowy River

Fathers And Sons

Matt aided by his son Robbie attempts to regain horses previously stolen from the stockade.

11:10 Coming Of Age

small  
lark

and had released all my people, but with it, human beings are also lost or things, and we do not know that we do well, status we damage, inventing us, confirming that loss, are us or something outside the

time I found myself watching television in which I learnt all vehicles enter Paris. There are spaces in Paris.

is about the white and less push. The white explosion would be achieved everything it set out dwelling is concerned. It has a problem. Man, on the other hand, the further he progresses, the position and always, he is advancing he has made. He then leaves the world with

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## PREVIEW

ing and touching love story of old college professor and educated peasant who, despite, ultimately learn how to

The Upper Hand  
day, Dec. 19

Black Beauty  
Boogies Diner

Swingin' Beans

receives support despite having me as a night shelter

Quantum Leap

Shades Of L.A.

News In English

0.20 Grushko

TV and a little beyond them  
and a little beyond them  
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day, Dec. 20

The Untold Stories  
Go To The Universe

Quantum Leap

Locking The Code

TV and a little beyond them  
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day, Dec. 21

Home Improvement

Aladdin

Locking The Code

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Quantum Leap

A Law And Order

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Quantum Leap

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News In English

0.20 Anna Kournikova

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## Women as hostages to political expedience

## Gender And National Identity: Women And Politics In Muslim Societies

Edited by Valentine M. Moghadam  
published for the United Nations University/  
World Institute for Development Economics  
Research by Zed Books Ltd, London and New  
Jersey, 1994, 169 pages, \$19.95.

Why is that women who enthusiastically join in a national liberation struggle later find their rights curtailed after independence? Why do societies that isolate themselves often segregate the sexes as well? How is that women's role may be marginalised at the very moment it is the subject of vigorous public debate?

These are some of the questions addressed by the six women who contributed essays to *Gender and National Identity*. They explore how women's role intersects with the dynamics of nationalism, modernisation, revolution, state-building and Islamisation in Algeria, Bangladesh, Iran, Afghanistan and Palestine. Several of the authors argue that women's status is central to a revolutionary society's self-definition.

The clearest examples of this hypothesis are found in the essays on Iran and Afghanistan, written by Nayereh Tohidi and Valentine M. Moghadam, respectively. In 1978, when Afghans began fleeing into Pakistan, the main reason they gave for leaving was desire to escape the universal literacy programme of the revolutionary government in Kabul. Literacy classes entailed women appearing in public, and this challenged the mixture of tribal custom and Islam adhered to by rural Afghans. Thus, from the start, women's status was central to the conflict between the governing party and the Mujahedeen opposition. Later, when the Kabul government tried to appease the Mujahedeen for the sake of national reconciliation, programmes for women's advancement were dropped. One might add that this was to no avail: Kabul eventually fell to the Mujahedeen whose first order was to enforce the veiling of women.

Why is female behaviour deemed so crucial? The authors concur that this is more a question of power

relations than of Islamic doctrine. Control over women is often justified by contending that they are a potential source of social disorder or, alternately, that they must raise the next generation. Maintaining traditions, including strict norms for women's behaviour, serves to strengthen men's identity and ability to resist external pressures, whether these arise from the economic system or the demands of engaging in battle. He faces the world armoured by the guarantee of domestic stability. In societies where the nation or state is projected as an extension of the family, the same mechanism may be employed by political forces on a national basis to promote their aims.

Besides, there is the obvious economic motivation. In many cases, men drive profit by selling products, such as carpets, made by unpaid female family members: "collective male interests dictate strict control of 'female labour'" (p. 85).

In Afghanistan, patriarchal tribes have historically been stronger than the state, and Islam served as the unifying ideology for the opposition in the absence of concepts of nationalism. Islam also emerged as the banner of the Iranian opposition, but for somewhat different reasons.

Under the shah, modernisation was largely induced by the penetration of Western capital and technology, while change was decreed from above, as when the police enforced the unveiling of women in 1963. This gave rise to new conflicts, for popular culture inevitably lagged behind the abrupt transformations, leaving the majority of the people unequipped to deal with the new economic conditions and breakdowns of old social patterns.

In this context, joining the Islamic movement was an act of self-defence, a search for identity. Women with a modern life style were viewed as having been corrupted by the West and the shah regime; their behaviour was blamed for the social ills associated with modernisation. The Islamic movement advocated domesticating women to solve the crisis, and much of the anti-shah opposition downplayed the question of women's rights.

Yet, the women's question continued to be pivotal even after the victory of the Islamic Revolution. A

review of developments shows that pressure on women to wear the hijab eases when the authorities feel their power is secure, only to be tightened when they face a crisis.

In both Iran and Afghanistan, "women became hostage in the conflict between the security and legitimacy of tradition and the aspiration for full human dignity and liberation" (p. 127). The term "hostage" applies equally to women in Algeria, and the inclusion of two essays on this country gives *Gender And National Identity* added current relevance.

Algeria has long been a standard reference in feminist discourse as to what should not happen to women in the post-independence stage. Pertinent to this discussion is Cherifa Bouatia's frank interview with two women who were militants in the national liberation struggle. Though Frantz Fanon predicted that the war would shake patriarchal family structures, the interview reveals that neither woman was motivated to join the FLN by special female concerns. Rather both identified with the collective goals of their people. They went far beyond traditional roles in the pursuit of these national aims, but this was related to the demands of the exceptional war situation. No attempt was made by the post-independence government to preserve the revolutionary women's role other than as an image.

Today these women look back with nostalgia at the mutual respect and relative equality that existed between men and women in the liberation struggle. They are bitter about subsequent developments, and one of them attributes female support to the FIS to the fact that the government has done nothing to improve women's situation.

Now, even the image of the Moudjahidates — women strivers — is under attack. Due to popular sentiment, the FIS dares not directly attack Algeria's heritage of national liberation. Instead, it targets the weakest link, trying to erase the symbol of the women who fought for her country. "Hence, the Moudjahidates are the reference for the women taking part today in a modern project of feminine liberation, in opposition to the project of the Islamist

movement" (p. 36).

In the other selection on Algeria, Doria Cherifati-Merabtine provides historical background pertinent to why women are central to the contest over which direction society should take. Colonisation nearly destroyed Algeria. In self-defence, Algerians "took refuge in tradition and custom. In trying to cut women off from Western civilisation, they aimed to preserve the integrity of their society" (p. 42). This is part of the reason why the FLN did not challenge tradition concerning women's role, especially after the battle was won and it came to power.

Moghadam notes in her introduction: "It is in the context of economic crisis and social disparities that Islamist movements have emerged and spread, calling for the domestication of women as the solution to the crisis" (p. 9). This angle was echoed by Algeria's representative to the women's forum of the regional preparatory meeting of Arab women recently held in Amman. Saidi Ben Habylas reported that FIS leader, Abbas Madani has proposed "sending women home" as the solution to Algeria's 33 per cent unemployment rate. (Jordan Times, Nov. 13).

In the concluding essay of the book, Nahla Abdo gives a thoughtful examination of women's situation in relation to the Palestinian quest for national liberation. She notes that women's interests have more than once been sacrificed on the alter of nationalism. They have been asked to bear many children in order to win the demographic battle with Zionism, regardless of the costs to their health and well-being. More recently, they were asked to acquiesce to the demand of Hamas that they wear hijab, in order to secure unity against the occupation.

Today, the new Palestinian National Authority is at odds with both the Islamic movement and large portions of its own democratic constituency. This situation, like the conditions prevailing in the aforementioned countries, calls for re-examination of the relation between national struggle, social change, religion and state power. *Gender And National Identity* gives no simple answers to the questions it raises, but it may serve as a useful guide to critical reassessment.

Sally Bland

## Unity and partition

## The General In His Labyrinth

By Gabriel Garcia Marquez

For those of us who read Gabriel Garcia Marquez's magnificent *One Hundred Years Of Solitude* soon after it appeared, *The General In His Labyrinth* (1989) is a subtle surprise. At first glance, the book doesn't seem to march along with the others in Marquez's arsenal. For one thing, it is semi-fictional, recreating the extraordinary context of General Simon Bolivar's last year of life, and for another, it skirts the surreal which is so much part of Marquez's other works. And, yet, for those familiar with the author's political convictions, *The General In His Labyrinth* is an epic tour de force that is informed by the nationalistic sensibilities of a man who obviously still believes in the cultural, and perhaps even geographical unity of the Latin American continent, even while living in Mexican exile.

The book traces the trajectory of the near-legendary 19th-century general, Simon Bolivar, "The Liberator" who fought for close to 20 years to establish an independent and united country in what is now Latin America, only to see his monumental work torn apart in his own lifetime by a number of squabbling fellow generals, and a surge of localistic, parochial fervour that favoured partition over unity. Although principally concerned with the last months of Bolivar's life, and the agonies of exile and impending death, Marquez's book is also a harrowing depiction of deceit and betrayal. In a postscript to his work, Marquez describes how he pieced together Bolivar's last journey, even now little-known in the general's country of birth, Venezuela, by enlisting

the help of numerous biographers, historians, diplomats, linguists and at least one typesetter. He calls the events in the book "a horror", and indeed they are. Here was a man who was born into the wealthy, land-owning Creole aristocracy of Spanish America, whose youth was spent trying to imbibe and duplicate the Napoleonic spirit of Europe and to soak up as much of French and British culture as possible; who, nevertheless, gave up his life of ease to fight the Spanish occupier and to forge an independent, economically viable country out of the Spanish colonies in the Americas, only to see it founder on the shoals of petty politics and narrow self-interest.

**BOOK REVIEW**

Many times elected as president of the republic when the country was in danger, he was to die reviled by most of the populace that he had sought to free, alone and in exile, with only a small band of followers at his side.

Marquez's skillful, full-bodied description of the general's character, intermixed with snatches of his real-life conversations and literary communications exposes the man's callousness, bravery and immense bummery all at the same time. Bolivar was a highly-regarded general and a magnanimous statesman; he forgave most of his enemies (but one) and he was incorruptible, strictly accounting for every cent in the public treasury. And yet he was known to be vulgar in speech, pitiless in combat and frequently

## Voices from the global South

unfair to his most loyal servants and aides-de-camp. Marquez's fleshed-out characterisation captures the man's human foibles without falling into melodrama; and his evocation of the tropics, its lush vegetation and its debilitating heat, provides a languid backdrop to the general's tormented last journey.

Having said that, the author's single-minded focus on the last, traumatic period of Bolivar's life relates to oblivion a central question of Latin American, indeed of all southern independence movements, which is: Could national unity have prevailed in the first place? Here, a historical survey of Latin America at the time of Bolivar is important. The point, according to Benedict Anderson's *Imagined Communities* (1983), is that while Bolivar and others in the Creole aristocracy may have shared a number of cultural affinities with the Spanish metropolis in Madrid, they were denied social and economic mobility. Because they were born in the colonies and not in the mother country, they were confined to their American plantations and denied a chance to shine in Spain, even though they were of Spanish origins. Largely as a result of limited opportunities in the Spanish empire, hostility to Madrid spread among the Creole land-owning class in Venezuela, Ecuador, Mexico and Peru, which contributed to the birth of an American identity. Banding together with others of their class (whether landowners or merchants), the Creole leadership reached out to the mass of peasants of African and Indian origins (who had been excluded at first) and began the first revolutions in Spanish America.

But why did the revolutions fail to create a united America? Anderson believes that, from the very

first, Creole revolutionaries identified only with a certain local identity, which emanated from the Spanish territorial and administrative units that formed the basis for what would later become Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay and Bolivia. These geographical-administrative units became economic zones under Madrid's commercial tutelage, thus reinforcing the "natural" ties of contiguity and administrative contact. Moreover, while local newspapers did appear in the Spanish Americas, they were themselves a product of a provincial consciousness that did not reflect American-wide concerns. Unlike the Thirteen Colonies of Northern America (which later would become the United States), Spanish American colonies exhibited the same interests, and spoke with one voice only under the short Presidency of Simon Bolivar's Gran Colombia (Venezuela, New Granada and Ecuador).

However, all these issues do not directly concern Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Nor should they, for Marquez is ultimately writing an eulogy for a man and a movement which once held great promise, and died too soon. For him, the sheer pathos of Bolivar's last days, and the tragedy of his death are the stuff of which legends are made. His harrowing depiction of the prematurely aged Bolivar forms the core of a work of stunning originality, insight and compassion, and brings the reader face to face with issues that permeate all cultures throughout history.

Dr. Hala Fattah

Marriage fever  
grips Hanoi

HANOI (AFP) — Cold nights are here, and so is the season of love.

Thousands of young northern Vietnamese are tying the knot during the traditional winter marriage frenzy, when festive banquets and wedding motorcades are a daily sight in Hanoi.

Unlike in the southern regions, young northerners consider the cool months of November to February the best season in which to get hitched. Couples choose wedding dates months in advance after consulting fortune-tellers, a practice demanded by tradition and now tolerated by the Socialist authorities.

Wealthy families, enjoying the country's conversion to a market economy, spend on average about 20 million dong (\$2,000) for a wedding. Those who are less wealthy can blow around eight million dong (\$800) on a wedding — a sum that is still equal to three or four years' salary for the average government worker.

Many weddings, and the banquets that follow, are sumptuous affairs that

plunge the newlyweds into debt even before their honeymoon. Some couples celebrate by throwing feasts spread over two days with as many as 250 guests.

But such extravagance can backfire and lead overworked, debt-burdened couples to seek divorce.

Hanoi's wealthy go to great lengths to display their money during the marriage season, which is punctuated by celebrations such as Christmas and the Lunar New Year, known locally as Tet.

While authorities are now less likely to question a family's wealth and ability to stage a marriage extravaganza, the local press has called on young people to keep their weddings "simple, modest and economical" and not "contrary to Socialist morality."

But Hanoi residents are no longer surprised to see convoys of luxury cars, escorted by dozens of mopeds, fetching the bride at her parents' home, causing traffic jams and making noise in Hanoi's major arteries. The number of wed-

cades of war.

Weddings can be held in the homes of the couple's families or in a hotel after having carried out the registration formalities with the local people's committee.

The law sets the minimum marrying age at 20 for men and 18 for women, although there are people who marry younger without being sanctioned by local authorities, especially in rural areas where the tradition of pre-arranged marriages remains strong.

During the "tea ceremony," each guest offers the couple an envelope which contains anything from 20,000 to 30,000 dong (\$2 to \$3), and up to 100,000 dong (\$10) at a large banquet.

The size of the present is related to the scale of the party, and may represent up to a third of a civil servant's average salary.

"In one day, I received three invitations, but I had to turn them down for lack of money," said a mother, Tran Ngoc Trinh, a pensioner who does not go out these days, explaining that her income does not allow for such expenses.

Japanese debate  
what's in a name

bad shown that more than 60 per cent of those questioned favoured, or could tolerate, different surnames for spouses.

"The difference was because of the way questions were put. People think it's okay for others, but not for themselves," said Fumiko Sakakib

## New drugs may help asthma sufferers

By Ben Hirschler  
Reuter

**LONDON** — Asthma is on the rise worldwide, aggravated by growing air pollution and allergies.

There is no true cure for this most common chronic condition, affecting an estimated three to five per cent of people, but a clutch of new drugs are now in development which doctors believe may improve treatment.

At present asthma is treated mainly with bronchodilators to relieve airway constriction, and — increasingly — with inhaled steroids which tackle the underlying inflammation of the bronchial tubes which causes asthma.

But while steroids are effective, worries remain about their possible side effects. Last month, a

2,000 signature petition was presented to the British government urging a no-fault compensation scheme amid claims about the drugs.

Dr. Neil Thomson, an asthma expert at Glasgow's Western Infirmary, says there is no evidence that low-dose inhaled steroids are harmful. But it is not clear just where the safe limit lies.

For the last decade, the hunt has been on for alternatives. Now the first new drugs are nearing the market.

Their common goal is to target specific inflammation "mediators". Steroids, by contrast, suppress virtually every step of the inflammatory process, making them rather blunt pharmacological tools.

The companies making the new compounds — which can be swallowed as

pills rather than inhaled — hope they will cut the need for steroids in mild to moderate asthma patients, who make up the bulk of sufferers.

First to reach the market will be a group of drugs which inhibit production of leukotrienes, naturally-occurring substances implicated in causing inflammation.

U.S.-based Abbott Laboratories' 5-lipoxygenase inhibitor, Zileuton, filed for regulatory approval in September, does this by blocking the biosynthesis of leukotrienes.

The British Zeneca Group, meanwhile, has a different drug — selective leukotriene D4 antagonist, called Accolate — which is due for filing early in 1995.

Both drugs could be approved in 1996, phar-

maceutical analysts believe, but Accolate may have an advantage since it will be offered in a low dose regime of just one tablet a day, against three a day for Zileuton.

A follow-up compound from Smithkline Beecham (SB) called Panlukast is a year behind Accolate in development in the U.S. and Europe, although it has already been filed for approval in Japan by SB's partner Ono Pharmaceuticals.

Further off, several firms including Rhone-Poulenc Rorer, Smithkline and Syntex are working on selective phosphodiesterase (PDE4) inhibitors, regarded by many researchers as the most promising new anti-asthma drug class.

The most advanced oral PDE4 is made by the British biotechnology com-

pany Celltech Group and goes under the code-name CDP-544. It is being developed with Merck and Co and is now in phase II clinical trials.

Other drugs focusing on different mediators include platelet activating factor (PAF) antagonists, such as British Biotech's Lexipitant, being developed with Glaxo, and thromboxane antagonists, like Bayer's Bay-U-3405.

Another class of compounds, still at the research stage in several companies' portfolios, are potassium channel activators. Thomson says it has yet to be proved whether any of these drugs will consistently outperform inhaled steroids across a broad range of patients. As a result, he sees them supplementing rather than re-

placing steroids — at least initially.

"Steroids are a tough nut to crack. They work very well and in normal doses they don't have serious side effects," he said.

## Changing role for nurses in Africa

By Rebecca Dodd

Some families do not know that patients are coming home or indeed that they had AIDS at all, until the patients are discharged into their care. One nurse from Zimbabwe recalls that during her home visits, families often invite her to eat with them. Then want to see if it is safe, as she has told them, to share food with AIDS sufferers.

As AIDS usually strikes those in their most productive years, the families' main needs are often economic. When the chief breadwinners becomes too sick to work, nurses might link families with charities or development groups willing to help out with school fees, credit and finding alternative sources of income.

For most nurses this is a natural and essential extension of their work. Poverty, they say, has a direct impact on health. If a family lacks access to water and proper sanitation, the house is more likely to harbour infection such as TB. If food is scarce, the patient will get weaker.

Home-based care also helps to prevent further spread of HIV. Regular home visits give nurses the opportunity to promote safe-sex messages to patients, families and friends. And having an AIDS sufferer in the community provides the next generation with direct evidence of the consequences of not heeding that message — Panos features.

## Sordid drugs tale pulls no punches

By Charles Whelan  
Agence France Presse

**PARIS** — In the same week that 11 top Chinese competitors were condemned as drug cheats, a sordid little movie opened here.

*Dernier Stade* may not be the greatest movie of its genre, as one French film critic claimed, but film-maker Christian Zerbib pulls no punches. The only unconvincing part is the final disclaimer: "Any connection with real life is unintentional."

Cut to the action: A parody of the Marseillaise plays as Catherine Delaunay, 800 metres champion of France, inserts a pouch of "clean" urine into her vagina to enable her to pass a random dope test.

In the next scene Delaunay weeps with joy as the Marseillaise blares out and she is crowned European champion.

According to the French Sports Ministry,

Zerbib's low-budget film depicts the destruction of sport by drugs with the collusion of top athletics officials and sponsors.

Money is the root of all evil here. Delaunay is champion and French record holder, thanks to drugs. She gets a house, car and cash from her sponsor, one of France's biggest banks.

"Break your own record, we double the money," the bank says. "Win the European Championship and we pour it all over you."

Delaunay, played by Anne Richard, undergoes a regime of doping which broadly reflects current practice in athletics and includes male hormone injections, masking agents, blood doping and even pregnancy, the most natural way to boost hormone levels and oxygen retention.

According to the French Sports Ministry,

some 8,000 dope tests were carried out on French athletes last year, 160 or 16 per cent of them positive. Drug abuse were prevalent throughout athletics for international level down to the most modest provincial competition.

But Zerbib's inspiration for the film was not France. On April 9, 1987, East Germany heptathlete Birgit Dressler complained of a pain in her back. The following day she was dead — victim of an ambitious coach, an unscrupulous doctor, and a lethal cocktail of drugs. Dressler was 26 and in one season — her last — rose 100 places in the world rankings.

"I wanted to know why what woman died," said Zerbib. "The tale is all too familiar."

The film follows one season in the life of a top French athlete. At the start Delaunay is beaten in the French Championships by a runner on drugs. She vows revenge, finds her ambitious coach and unscrupulous doctor, and never has to lose again.

France has yet to have its Ben Johnson scandal, or a collective slap in the face like the Chinese, but the film has touched a raw nerve in the Sports Ministry and the Athletics Federation.

The French have long looked down from the moral high ground at drug scandals elsewhere, notably in the United States, the former Soviet Bloc, and Britain.

Not any more. Zerbib's film opened the day after publication of a new report on drug abuse in teenage sport.

Two sports medicine specialists polled 2,423 high school students in southern France and found nearly 10 per cent would take performance-enhancing drugs and one

in 50 were already doing so.

"They know it goes on at the highest levels in sports, so they think why not," said Philippe Turblin, one of the specialists.

A Sports Ministry spokesman described the findings as shocking and said: "The risk is that there will be a drug-abuse explosion and we will get into the situation described in *Dernier Stade*."

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## WEEKEND CROSSWORD

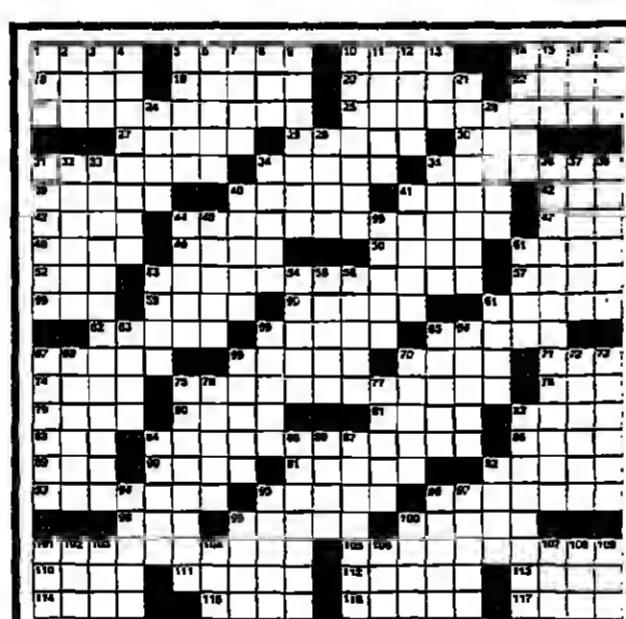
THINGS TO DO  
By Don Johnson

**ACROSS**

1. Yogi's target  
4. Greek perfume  
10. Greek perfume  
14. Devonport  
17. "I'm sorry"  
19. Loyal subject to a monarch  
22. Breakfast favorite  
23. Don't let anyone in  
24. "I'm not a good sport"  
27. Mature  
28. Uses a tool  
29. Was in session  
30. "I'm not a good sport"  
31. "I'm not a good sport"  
32. "I'm not a good sport"  
33. "I'm not a good sport"  
34. "I'm not a good sport"  
35. "I'm not a good sport"  
36. Side dish  
37. "I'm not a good sport"  
38. Kind of strike

**DOWN**

1. "I'm not a good sport"  
2. "I'm not a good sport"  
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39. "I'm not a good sport"  
40. "I'm not a good sport"



### Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Imbued with jealousy, some local landmarks have the worrisome old blues on a more sordid chase.  
2. Wry aid pro football player's aches and pains go away when his backfield gate gets realigned.

3. Biggest bane of both home gardener and farmer is root rot.

4. Crafty skier makes many easy tracks: Sitzmarks!

**CRYPTOGRAMS**

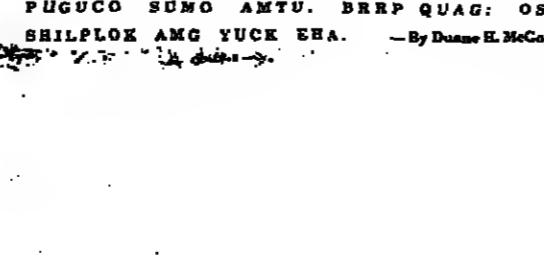
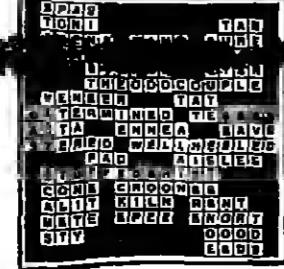
1. GOKLUN PURPY NCHEEN RE OLES FLE PEENZGET DIGHOLEZ OPSGET IGY FLAKERET GS OZ TPAACE.

2. TEL JMAQHCAJC MTTQJ DE SACH HQS XATTAMR CHEC TERQJ ITOXH EAXJ YLQF EBL IQPP.

3. NEWKING PHONO ITS ESRUEZM WL KHEZEMTIEZ TSNETU DE ASNEWS TIREPUL EAOEZUS.

4. IMP QUAGI REP INQ PLUG LQ ZECQLQE FUGUCO SUMO AMTU. BRRP QUAG: OSU SHILPLOK AMG YUCK EHA. —By Dennis H. McCarty

### SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



**PARIS** (AFP) — An effective vaccine against the AIDS virus HIV could be in wide-scale use in developing countries where the AIDS incidence is high.

"We would have to have a much higher effectiveness level to make it worthwhile in developed countries like France or the United States," he said.

Professor Lars Kallings, secretary-general of the International AIDS Society, said that if tests due to be carried out over the next few years give good results, vaccine programmes could be launched in developing countries before the year 2000.

"That is at best, if everything turns out well," Prof. Kallings told AFP in the sidelines of a one-day scientific conference on the pandemic, ahead of the first international political summit on AIDS.

Speaking after a session devoted entirely to the question of the search for an AIDS vaccine, he said a "general vaccination programme" would target initially young girls and pregnant women in developing countries.

"We have identified high risk groups comprising some 350 million people in Africa, Asia and Latin America who would initially be subject to the programme.

"The aim would be to vaccinate young girls before they become sexually active, say at the age of 10 or 12, in a schools vaccination programme similar to that for measles or polio."

He said the scale of the programme would depend on the results of vaccination tests being carried out in countries like Thailand in the new few years.

"If the trials give a 45-50 per cent immunity, then I think we would go ahead," said Prof. Kallings, who is scientific advisor to the Swedish government and formerly worked for the World Health Organization (WHO).

Above all the session was dominated however by optimism that a vaccine can be developed.

"There are difficult hurdles to overcome, it is a daunting task, but that should not prevent us from taking the challenge," said Professor William Paul of the National Institute of Health in Maryland, who chaired the session.

## ANSWERS

### BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. a- A duck's cry; fraudulent doctor.
- b- To promise; an unhappy condition.
- c- To put seed in soil; a female pig.
- d- Not fresh; a horse's urine.
- e- Cattle; tidy.

★ ★ ★ ★

2. STETHESCOPE: Used by a doctor so as to hear the sound of

## Features

### King urges umma to unite

(Continued from page 1)

ection with the sole purpose of pleasing God Almighty.

"We will do our duty towards the shrines in the name of the nation until its status has been determined: in an acceptable and appropriate manner," said the King.

"In this context I would say that we do not accept any party's sovereignty over the Holy Places except that of God Almighty and we will not at the same time diminish the right of our Palestinian brothers to regain their rights in the city but we will rather back their endeavours and their rights."

Referring to other ills plaguing the Islamic nation, the King mentioned drugs "which kill the soul" and the smuggling of goods.

He said the Islamic nation ought to put an end to all these atrocities with all its might.

In statements to the press before his departure, the King said that the results of the summit were encouraging.

"In my belief, there are no problems that cannot be resolved and especially, I think, those which might be ambiguous to the brethren concerning the question of Jerusalem."

King Hussein added: "Jerusalem is not a problem and was and will never be. We carry out a duty which we have towards our holy Islamic places, and holy places in general, until there comes a time when there is an acceptable solution."

The King suggested that the Muslim countries resort to spreading Islamic culture and seek to attain sublime goals in line with the teachings of the Holy Koran.

"As we are advocates of peace, justice and understanding, we cannot accept any form of malice and hatred in all forms that appear in the ugliest manner in the massacres committed in the name of Islam, the home is more likely to harbour infection such as TB. If it does not scatter, the patient will go weaker."

Home-based care also helps to prevent further spread of HIV. Regular home visits are a much better opportunity to promote sex messages to patients than visits to clinics and friends.

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ANSWERS

By Susan Watts and  
Tom Wilkie

Simple tests that reveal the genetic inheritance a child receives from its parents could create "the lepers of the 21st century" — people shunned by society because of their DNA.

Unless proper regulations are introduced to control testing for genetic disease, the new technologies of DNA analysis could do more harm than good. Researchers and, significantly, the support groups for people and families affected by genetic disease are increasingly concerned about the impact of uncontrolled genetic screening.

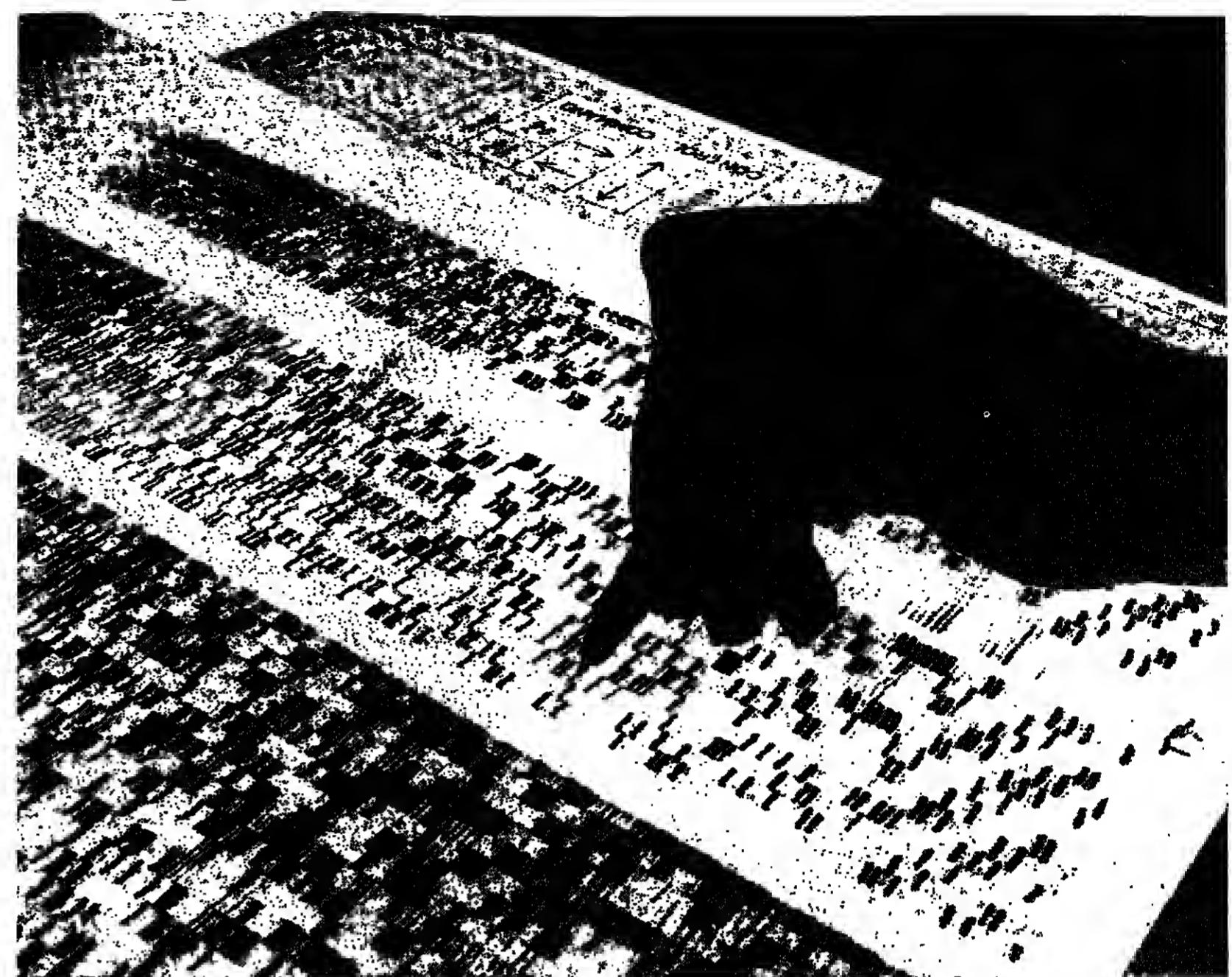
In December 1993, the Nuffield Council of Bioethics issued a report urging the government to bring in safeguards on genetic screening "protect individuals and their families against the misuse of confidential information, the risk of social stigma and the possibilities of eugenic abuse." Nothing has been done.

Researchers are discovering a new human gene almost weekly. The genes responsible for many of the most important inherited diseases have been analysed. In 1986, two American scientists, Tony Monaco and Louis Kunkel, identified the gene responsible for Duchenne muscular dystrophy — the first triumph of the modern techniques of DNA analysis. It was followed three years later by the gene for cystic fibrosis — the commonest single gene defect among northern Europeans. In the past year, the genes for Huntington's disease and a form of inherited breast cancer have been isolated.

Once the gene is found, it is relatively easy to test people to see if they have the gene and run the risk of having children who will suffer from the disease. Often researchers or their employers have patented their discovery, with the aim of making money out of marketing tests to the general population.

Such tests could create a genetic underclass — the lepers of the 21st century," says Sue Watkin of the Huntington's Disease Association. Mrs. Watkin was addressing a meeting in London last week organised by the Genetic Interest Group (GIG), a charity that brings together all the support groups for people and families affected by genetic disease.

GIG and the support groups welcome the advances being made in understanding inherited disease. To indicate



A print-out of DNA information. It's uncontrolled screening worries people affected by genetic disease

individuals and families affected by genetic conditions, these advances hold hope for treatment where none existed before, but they want to ensure the new knowledge is applied to benefit affected people and families.

Mrs. Watkin worries that employers and insurance companies might require people to undergo genetic testing. She cited the case of a family whose father had died of cancer at the age of 50, before exhibiting the symptoms of progressive degeneration of the brain resulting from the Huntington's disease gene he carried. His children carried on unaware that they had a 50 per cent risk of developing the disease, went on to higher education and fulfilling careers. Would they have done so, she asked, had they known their risk status through a predictive test, say

one imposed by their father's employer?

People with inherited disorders are already being discriminated against, says Michael Turner of the Family Heart Association. "We have an example of someone who wanted to join the army. It rejected him on medical grounds, as did the fire service. "others have to pay high motor insurance premiums," which Dr. Turner feels is particularly unfair because people who are diagnosed and treated with drugs are less of a risk than those who are unaware of their condition. And 92 per cent of those with inherited high levels of blood cholesterol have not been diagnosed, he says.

Screening for genetic diseases can do more harm than good, says Bernadette Modell of University College Hospital, London. "It can damage people's healthy self-image or their image of a healthy baby." All newborn babies have a spot of blood taken from their heels and blotted on to a card soon after birth. Dr. Modell told the conference. This "Guthrie spot" is analysed for the inherited disease PKU as part of a comprehensive and effective genetic screening programme.

But in Sweden, Dr. Modell says, researchers used the Guthrie spots as part of a screening programme for alpha-1 anti-trypsin deficiency, which carries with it a susceptibility to lung disease.

This is not strictly a genetic disease, but children who

have inherited the genes are

very vulnerable to environmental pollutants. In the Swedish programme, the parents of such children were told to stop smoking.

Then a follow-up study showed the parents were smoking more. They were angry because they had not been consulted, nor their permission sought, for the tests.

They had not been properly informed or counselled about the significance of the condition. The parents were left,

child who inherits both damaged copies.

At the last moment, the pathologists were dissuaded from carrying out the tests. One geneticist remarked: "It had not occurred to them what they were going to tell the infants." Nor had they thought through why the children should be tested or what their parents would do with the information.

Alastair Kent, the director of the Genetic Interest Group, welcomes the Select Committee's investigation. "There is a need for an appropriate and effective regulatory regime." But, he stresses it must be open and transparent. He contrasts the secrecy of the British Gene Therapy Advisory Committee with the openness of the Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee, which holds public hearings and publishes its agenda and decisions.

Mr. Kent feels organisations offering genetic testing, or companies stipulating that someone should undergo a genetic test, must pay for proper counselling, support and follow-up.

The Independent.

### Bulgarian ex-communists prepare for election win

By Philippa Fletcher  
Renter

SOFIA — In 1990, as democratic change swept Eastern Europe, Bulgaria brought the world up short by voting its former communist party back into power.

Now, after a brief flirt with the opposition, it appears to be about to do it again.

As the campaign for Sunday's parliamentary election draws to a close, opinion polls give the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP) which changed its name from communist in 1990, a clear lead over its main rival, the Union of Democratic Forces (UDF).

The fiercely anti-communist UDF, which alleges the polls are manipulated, is counting on a last-minute rally of support to help it repeat the victory it scored in 1991.

But it is badly split, while the former communists are riding, like their counterparts in Hungary and Poland before them, on a wave of disappointment and nostalgia with painful economic and political change.

The feeling is especially strong among the elderly, who dominate Bulgaria's shrinking population and have suffered badly from a sharp inflationary jump this year when delays in market reform began to take their toll.

Bulgarian pensioners danced and sang in the streets at a rally in a run-down part of Sofia on Saturday morning while socialist candidates handed out bread and wine and toasted an election victory which has yet to be sealed.

The leftist appeal is not restricted to the elderly.

"We're in fashion," boasts a pre-election poster for the party's youth wing featuring a

young couple, back to back, staring dreamily into the distance.

One young socialist Ivan Yankov, whose haircut and clothes fit the slogan on the poster, says his socialist leanings are natural in a state where the elite was loyal to the old regime.

Leading socialist Nora Ananieva told a recent news conference the church, schools and media should be roped in to bring back the moral values which had been lost amid waves of crime and consumerism.

Most of his fellow-students do not share his views, but that does not bother him. "Most of them will not vote. They supported the UDF but it lied to them," he said.

The socialists have successfully managed to lay the blame for the corruption and lawlessness which have characterised Bulgaria's transition at the door of the UDF, despite the fact that both sides are tarred by allegations of corruption.

Away from Sofia, in a largely rural society where the benefits of capitalism have yet to penetrate, people give other reasons for voting socialist.

In the western town of Tren near the Serbian border, where United Nations sanctions have blocked trade, locals say the former communists have the support of young and old because of their pledge to halve unemployment.

The only thing that keeps us going at the moment is petrol smuggling," says one man, part of the wave of petty sanctions-busters who punch new holes in the embargos each day.

The socialists say they will seek to boost ties with Serbia, step up pressure on the West to lift sanctions and push for compensation for billions of dollar lost trade.

They have also made the most of a longing for the

strict law and order of communist Bulgaria and popular support for the Orthodox Church despite the fact that it was sidelined and muffled by the old regime.

My family and friends are in the BSP and so are the teachers on my tourism course. They are intelligent and professional," he said.

Leading socialist Nora Ananieva told a recent news conference the church, schools and media should be roped in to bring back the moral values which had been lost amid waves of crime and consumerism.

By stressing their links with Moscow, the socialists have appealed to widespread respect for Russia which dates back long before the Red Army laid the groundwork for communism to replace the Bulgarian monarchy at the end of World War II.

One of the few surviving statues to a Russian tsar stands in front of the parliament building in Sofia, honouring Alexander II for liberating Bulgaria from 500 years of Ottoman rule.

But the socialists have built up huge expectations at a time when western economists believe Bulgaria must bite the bullet of tough reform or face economic disaster.

For the past two years, the party has given its parliamentary backing to a non-party government while at the same time calling for it to ease up on its sluggish market reform programme.

Pressure from the party's grass-roots to take responsibility was part of the reason socialist deputies encouraged the government to step down in September to make way for the election.

At Saturday's rally, Zhan Vidov, the youthful leader of the Socialist Party who is vying for the premiership, had some awkward questions from his supporters. "When we win, will there be socialism?" demanded a man who gave his name as Stanislav.

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Israelis hope to attract South Korean business

## Rabin calls in Japanese to be economic partners

TOKYO (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin Wednesday called on Japan to step up its trade relations with the Jewish state and become a closer economic partner.

"We want and we recommend a change of attitude on the part of the government of Japan and the business community of Japan," Mr. Rabin said at a luncheon meeting with Japanese business leaders.

"Look at us as a partner in business. We ask for nothing more than that," Mr. Rabin said. "European and Japanese companies should no longer fear the Arab boycott."

Japan is sensitive to relations with Arab countries as it depends on the Arab World for 70 per cent of its oil supplies.

Economic data show that trade relations between Israel

and the Far East, in particular Japan, are becoming closer.

Exports to Japan rose 18 per cent in the first nine months of 1994 to \$681 million, according to the Israel-Japan Chamber of Commerce.

Imports fell 14 per cent to \$690 million, mainly because of the yen's appreciation.

In 1994, Asia was Israel's fastest growing market, with exports jumping 33 per cent in the first nine months, according to the Japanese finance ministry. Asia accounts for 12.4 per cent of Israel's exports, up from 8.1 per cent in 1992.

Tokyo has pledged a total of \$200 million towards the start-up costs of Palestinian self-rule, of which roughly half has already been provided.

While expressing his thanks for the financial support for the peace process,

Mr. Rabin said: "We believe that Japan, as one of the giants of the world economy, should be involved even deeper than that."

The Japanese business community seems to agree that there is room to improve economic ties between the two countries.

Shoichiro Toyoda, chairman of the Japan Federation of Economic Organisations, said at the luncheon meeting: "In the economic arena, trade between Japan and Israel is steadily increasing."

"Unfortunately, however, Japanese direct investment in Israel and other Middle Eastern nations is currently not all that active," Mr. Toyoda said.

But with an eye to future business relations between Japan and the Jewish state, the federation sent a mission to Israel in April, 1993. This October, the Japan Association of Corporate Executives

also sent a study mission to Israel.

En route to Seoul, Israeli business leaders said they would urge their South Korean counterparts to set up Middle East headquarters in Israel.

Danny Gillerman, head of Israel's Federation of Chambers of Commerce, told Israeli radio by telephone that he and others on Mr. Rabin's mission hoped to persuade South Koreans to seize on the opportunities created by Middle East peace moves.

"Primarily we would like to transit or to convey to our partners both in Japan and in Korea the excitement, the bullishness, which we as Israeli business leaders and Israeli businessmen feel as far as what the opportunities are in Israel in the wake of the peace process," Mr. Gillerman said.

"We would like to have them come to Israel, explore the possibilities, set up operations in Israel and make Israel their regional base for regional activities and we believe this is a very real possibility," he said.

Asked about his delegation's goals in South Korea, Mr. Gillerman said: "We will be looking into signing agreements both with our economic organisations, with our chambers of commerce, exchanging database, encouraging more trade delegations between the two countries."

Israel hopes to deepen economic ties with the remnants of the Arab boycott fall. The Gulf war marked a turning point as Middle East peace-making moved toward. Now the Arab League has lifted its secondary embargo on companies doing business with Israel," he added.

the only Japanese car maker willing to sell cars to Israel. Today, Japanese and Korean cars are grabbing market share from European and U.S. models.

Exports to South Korea totalled \$137 million in 1993, equal to the amount of imports, said Marie-France Yizhaki, deputy director of the Asia division at Israel's industry and trade ministry.

"The state of economic relations with South Korea has increased quite dramatically over the last few years," Mr. Gillerman said.

"Most of the major South Korean companies are now active in Israel, companies like Samsung, Lucky Goldstar, Daewoo, Daihatsu, Kia and others, and Hyundai, which is a giant South Korean company, and we feel that there is a lot of interest in South Korea in entering into Israel," he added.

## Iran unveils 95/96 budget, sees \$14.3b income from oil exports

TEHRAN (R) — The Iranian government Tuesday unveiled its draft budget for 1995/96, more than a third bigger than the current year's and based on sharply higher oil revenue from lower crude exports.

President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani presented to parliament the nominally balanced 95.3 trillion rial (\$54.5 billion at the official exchange rate) budget for the Iranian year starting March 21.

The budget ceiling is 36.5 per cent bigger than the current year's approved level, maintaining an upward trend linked by economists to double-digit inflation of the recent years.

In his speech to parliament, Mr. Rafsanjani castigated his critics for accusing the government of misbanding the economy, saying they magnified deep-rooted economic problems.

"Creating new capacities and continuing construction of the country entails suffering hardships at present. All those interested in the country's future should cooperate... otherwise the opportunity available for building up the country will slip away like so many chances before," he said.

The draft maintains the general shape of the budget in recent years: Oil exports form the bulk of state income, current expenditures outstrip capital outlays and some 60 per cent of the total budget goes to state industries and banks widely seen as inefficient enterprises which burden the public purse.

One difference is that it

envisages reducing Iran's foreign commitments as required by parliament, while the budgets of the past few years included foreign borrowing.

"As you wanted, we have put the rival equivalent of \$1.6 billion in the expenditures to reduce our foreign commitments," Mr. Rafsanjani told the deputies.

Parliamentary speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri estimated last month that Iran's foreign commitments — debt and import contracts signed but yet to be carried out — would reach \$33 billion by March.

The draft for government revenue, excluding the budget for state industries and banks, is set at 41.2 trillion rials (\$23.5 billion), with oil exports contributing 61 per cent, taxes 19.1 per cent and other sources 19.9 per cent, Mr. Rafsanjani said.

That works out to an oil revenue of \$14.3 billion.

The current year's budget, drawn up at a time of depressed oil prices, envisaged \$10.15 billion of oil revenue.

Oil Minister Gholamreza Aghazadeh has said Iran's oil income was running 20 per cent above target in the first half of the year and hoped it would maintain the peace to the second half.

Mr. Rafsanjani said Iran's oil production capacity had reached 4.2 million barrels per day (b/d) in the current year and would stay at that level through March 1996.

He said Iran exported 2,343,000 b/d of crude in the first half of the current Iranian year and the figure was expected to drop to 2,235,000 b/d next year.

The fall in exports is due to rising domestic consumption while Iran's production is constrained by its 3.6 million b/d quota set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) through the end of 1995.

Mr. Rafsanjani said keeping a balanced budget was an overriding goal of the draft which also aimed at decentralisation, promoting social justice, supporting domestic production, boosting agriculture and curbing inflation in the long term.

He complained that domestic fuel consumption continued to rise, going up by an estimated 6.2 per cent to 167 million litres (44 million gallons) per day this year.

He said a parliamentary decision to double fuel prices from March 21 was "a good beginning but not enough" to curb the rise.

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## Kingdom's basketball season concludes today with Ahli-Orthodoxi clash

### Hussein, Homemmen drop to 2nd division

By Aleen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Kingdom's basketball season finally comes to an end Thursday evening when the top two teams — Al Ahli and Al Orthodoxi — clash in the final match of the First Division Championship.

Al Ahli had won the first round encounter 79-70, and need to repeat their win to retain their title. Al Orthodoxi may however prolong the competition if they win their upcoming match to force a title-deciding best-of-three-round.

The top two teams have been contesting the final for as long as fans can remember. Last year Al Ahli beat Al Orthodoxi 75-69 and 70-60 to clinch the title.

Al Orthodoxi had a vir-

tually undisputed reign throughout the eighties before losing the crown to Al Ahli in 1990.

Al Ahli won the title again in 1992 and 1993 and are this year aiming for their third consecutive crown.

Al Orthodoxi last won the title in 1991. They are represented by their younger lineup of players whom most thought would be an easy prey for the titleholder.

However, Al Orthodoxi have had a consistent form throughout the competition and if they capitalise over the absence of Nasir Bushnaq from Al Ahli's lineup they might well upset their opponent's plans of celebrations Thursday.

Al Orthodoxi are led by Hilal Barakat, who will team up with Jihad Saliba, Muntaser Abulayeb and a younger lineup including Jan Sahlieb and Ziyad Nablusi. Their head coach is former star Murad Barakat who retired last year after leading his team in an undisputed reign on the country's basketball scene from 1976-1989.

Al Ahli's Ukrainian coach Alexander Sasiba has an abundant number of players on the team. However their well-known stars like Samir Murqus, Marwane Ma'touq and Yousef Zaghloul have not demonstrated their usual form, while Bushnaq has missed the team's latest matches and seems to have disagreements with the club's board.



France  
rediscover  
scoring habit

TRABZON (R) — France recovered the scoring habit when they beat Azerbaijan 2-0 Tuesday in a European Championship Group One qualifier.

Jean-Pierre Papin's goal in the 24th minute ended a goalless spell which had lasted almost 300 minutes. Patrice Loko added a second in the 55th minute to underline France's return to the goal standard.

The hardy needed victory, in a match played on neutral ground because of security problems in Azerbaijan, boosted French hopes of reaching the 1996 finals after a disappointing start of three 0-0 draws in their previous qualifiers.

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Former champions Al Orthodoxi — Will they be able to force a deciding round

#### Relegation battle unclear

Irbid 79-76, while Al Watani won the won second round match 84-68.

One interpretation maintained that Al Watani had to defeat Al Hussein with over three points to avoid relegation — which they did. While the other pointed out that both teams were tied and had the same results warranting a deciding match just like the battle for the championship's

crown.

If Al Hussein are considered relegated Al Watani will have finished last and maintained fifth place in the division.

Al Jazireh retained third place for a third consecutive year after defeating former third place holders Al Jalil 73-69 and 71-55. Al Jalil thus finished fourth.

#### STANDINGS

	P	W	L	SF	SA	Pts.
Al Ahli	11	11	—	1156	605	22
Orthodoxi	11	10	1	1075	641	21
Jazireh	12	8	4	928	813	20
Jalil	12	6	6	787	815	18
Watani	12	3	9	815	1083	15
Hussein	12	3	9	759	1045	15
Homemmen	12	—	12	508	1020	10



French Jean-Pierre Papin (centre) scores the first goal versus Azerbaijan during their European Championship qualifying game. France won 2-0 (AFP photo)

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## Sampras, Agassi missing from Davis Cup team

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (R) — Davis Cup captain Tom Gullickson tabbed Jim Courier and Todd Martin to play singles against France in the first round next year after the world's top two players — Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi — decided not to participate.

Gullickson announced his choices of 10th-ranked Martin and Courier, currently 13th in the world, in a news conference at the Bayfront Centre Arena in St. Petersburg — site of the February 5-5 tie against France.

The meeting marks the first time the United States and France will face off in Davis Cup since the stunning French victory in the 1991 final in Lyon.

Gullickson said Sampras declined an invitation to play for the United States because the first round takes place just one week after the Australian Open.

"Pete has been doing well in the Grand Slams and I think he felt he really needed a break after the Australian Open," Gullickson said of the Australian Open and Wimbledon champion.

"And you know, playing for your country in Davis Cup is certainly not a relaxing week."

Sampras played in the quarter-final tie over the Netherlands and the semifinal defeat to Sweden last year.

Agassi, who helped the United States win its last two Davis Cups in 1990 and 1992, did not play in the international tournament last year, preferring to concentrate on recovering from injury and raising his world ranking, which had slipped into the mid-20s.

With his U.S. Open victory as an unseeded player and a strong finish in 1994, Agassi's ranking rocketed to second in the world. But Gullickson said Agassi had decided against playing Davis Cup before the semifinals next year.

Martin, who cracked the top 10 this year with strong showings in the Grand Slams events, went 3-1 in his Davis Cup debut year. He won two matches against India in the first round, but lost the deciding fifth match against Sweden to Magnus Larsson after defeating Stefan Eberg.

Courier dropped out of the top 10 in 1994, going the entire year without winning a little. But he was 4-0 in Davis Cup play. He helped the Un-

ited States win the Cup in the 1992 final against Switzerland.

"He kind of lost his mental edge for a while and his desire for playing," Gullickson said of Courier's 1994 slump.

"What he doesn't lack is courage and Jim has the heart and spirit to get back in the top five."

Sampras, Sanchez Vicario named world champions

In London, Pete Sampras of the United States and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain were named Wednesday as the International Tennis Federation world champions.

Both won two Grand Slam singles titles during the year — Sampras the Australian Open and Wimbledon and Sanchez Vicario the French and U.S. Open.

In addition Sampras, 23, won 10 other events and was runner-up at the Grand Slam Cup. Sanchez Vicario, who will be 23 Friday, won an additional six tournaments on the WTA Tour and finished the year as leader of the Virginia Slims bonus points standings, on which the selection of world champion is based.

Sampras, who was also the ITF world champion in 1993, held the number one position on the ITF computer programme which takes in performances in the four Grand Slams, the Davis Cup, the Grand Slam Cup and the ATP tour finals, in addition to all other ATP tour events.

It is considered the most accurate guide to a player's overall performance during a calendar year.

The awards will be presented at the Annual World Champions' Dinner during the 1995 French Open in Paris.

#### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH  
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Both vulnerable, South deals.

**NORTH**

+ K 2

+ Q J 4 2

+ J 10 9

**WEST**

+ A 8 5 4 3

+ 9 7

+ 6 5 4 3

+ 5 4

**EAST**

+ 10 8

+ A 9 8

+ 8 7 6 5

**SOUTH**

+ Q 7 2

+ Q 10 5

+ K 10 8

+ A K 8 2

The bidding:

South West North East

1 + Pass 1 + Pass

1 NT Pass 1 + Pass

3 NT Pass 1 + Pass

Open lead: Four of 6

Don't tell partner what he does not need to know. That information might be more useful to declarer, who might turn it against you by making the right choice when faced with a difficult decision.

South was only a whisker short of a one-no-trump opening bid, since the two tens gave the hand body. So

the next trick would be the ninth trick. Only with all the cards in view would we know better.

North could invite game. South upgraded his honors to partner's suit and was happy to accept.

West led a low spade, taken by the queen in the closed hand. The ace of diamonds was forced out and returned to West. West won the ace and returned the eight, his highest spade, to show an entry in the higher of the remaining side suits.

Declarer had eight tricks and a ninth could be established in either honor club. When declarer did not afford to lose a trick to West, since that defender had two good spades to cash. After much thought declarer elected to take West's carding at face value and trust the one honor club.

Given no other choice, West had to cash the club finesse anyway. But West disguised the spade distribution by simply following with the five and allowing declarer to win the second lead of the suit. Since declarer had eight tricks, the spades were 4-3 and it was safe to force out the ace of hearts for the ninth trick. Only with all the cards in view would we know better.

Touch

Touch

Touch

Touch

Touch

Touch

Touch

Touch

# Sports

Rally tour caps Jordan autosports season

By J. Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — With the Automobile Club of Jordan (AAC) to hold its final rally on Friday, the 14th week of Jordan's auto sports season, is also the last chance for drivers to compete in the Jordanian championship with a private racing association to continue in the Jordanian Rally at Wadi Rum.

Al Hussein and Al Wihdat will face slowly Shabab Al Hussein and Al Karmel — both almost certain to return to the second division.

In the most heated match, Al Ramtha will face Al Jazireh — the surprise team of the tournament — who were often threatened with relegation in past seasons but have maintained a top-five position this year.

In other matches, titleholders Al Faisali play Al Arabi, Al Jeel meet Kufraoum while Al Ahli play Al Qadissieh.

Standings remained unchanged after the 13th week concluded Tuesday. Over 16,000 fans were angered after the two popular teams, Al Faisali and Al Wihdat, were held to a goalless draw in their match at Amman stadium.

Although both teams lost scoring chances, they were content with the draw which enabled them to remain in second and fourth places going into the upcoming week.

Al Hussein could only manage a 1-0 win over Al Qadissieh who must start scoring some wins to secure themselves in the division.

Al Qadissieh had chances to score early against Al Hussein whose goalkeeper Khalid Al-Shehaidi saved his team

## Jordan Soccer League

### 14th week kicks off today

By Aleem Bannayan Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The top teams might have a good opportunity to shed their slack image when the 14th week of the First Division Soccer Championship kicks off Thursday.

While Al Hussein retained their lead at the top with 22 points, they are followed closely by Al Wihdat with 21. Al Ramtha are third with 20.

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Al Qadissieh had chances to score early against Al Hussein whose goalkeeper Khalid Al-Shehaidi saved his team

from definite humiliation by blocking at least three goals during the first half.

Mohammad Shweite scored the match's only goal in the 67th minute to keep Al Hussein atop the 12-team standings.

Al Ramtha proved they had one of the most consistent lineups when they scored their eighth win of the competition by defeating Al Jeel 2-0.

Al Jeel now languish at the bottom of the standings with the worse results and scoring record. However, they gave Al Ramtha a hard time before Farid Al Shanaib scored their first goal in the 71st minute. Veteran Khaled Al Aqqouri netted in the second goal seven minutes later.

Newcomers Kufraoum scored an important 1-0 win over Shabab Al Hussein who seem destined to be relegated if they continue their current results.

In a match in which both teams concentrated on defense, Islam Diyabat's goal in the 44th minute was welcomed by the sparse crowd attending

#### Standings after 13th week

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts.
Hussein	13	10	2	1	35	11	22
Wihdat	13	8	5	—	14	3	21
Ramtha	13	8	4	1	24	5	20
Faisali	13	6	6	1	22	7	16
Jazireh	13	7	3	3	17	9	17
Ahli	13	4	5	4	15	16	13
Kufraoum	13	6	1	6	21	23	13
Qadissieh	13	3	4	6	14	20	10
Arabi	13	3	3	7	14	26	9
Shabab Al Hussein	13	1	3	9	16	29	5
Karmel	13	1	1	11	9	31	3
Jeel	13	1	1	11	8	30	3

## Pacers upset; Hawks, Lakers post wins

CLEVELAND (AP) —

Mark Price passed to Greg Drexler for a dunk and drove for a layup at the start of the fourth quarter as the Cleveland Cavaliers ran off the first 8 points of the period and beat the Indiana Pacers 90-83 Tuesday night.

The Pacers, who shot just 27 per cent in the decisive fourth period, had their five-game winning streak snapped. Cleveland has won three in a row.

76ers 105, Heat 90: In Philadelphia, Willie Burton, re-vealed earlier this season by the Miami Heat, scored a

career-high 53 points against his old team to lead the Philadelphia 76ers.

Burton's total was the

highest in the NBA this season, it also set a spectrum

scoring record, surpassing the 52 points scored by Michael Jordan on Nov. 16, 1988.

Hornets 107, Bucks 101: In

Charlotte, North Carolina, Alonzo Mourning scored 20

points to lead the Charlotte Hornets to a victory over the Milwaukee Bucks, who have lost 10 of their last 11 games.

Hawks 85, Timberwolves 83;

OT: In Atlanta, Andrew

Lang's short hook in the lane

with 1:21 remaining in overtime lifted the Atlanta Hawks over the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Lakers 115, Mavericks 108: In Dallas, Nick Van Exel hit four of eight 3-pointers down the stretch and matched a career high with 35 points as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the Dallas Mavericks.

Bulls 98, Pistons 78: In Chicago, Scottie Pippen and Toni Kukoc got hot just in time to rescue Chicago from a horrific third quarter, and the Bulls went in to defeat the depleted Detroit Pistons.

## Arsenal draw Auxerre in Cup Winners' Cup

GENEVA (R) — The three Italian clubs left in the UEFA Cup managed to avoid each other in the quarter-final draw.

Juveotus play Eintracht Frankfurt, Lazio face another German side, Borussia Dortmund, while Parma were paired with Odense, shock conquerors of Real Madrid in the 69th minute.

Both teams settled for the draw after losing abundant scoring chances. Simon Kheir opened scoring for Al Jazireh in the 24th minute, and Ahmad Subi equalised for Al Arabi from a header in the 69th minute.

Al Arabi clinched a point from Al Jazireh when they were held to a 1-1 draw in their match at Petra stadium. Amman.

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## Russia issues ultimatum as troops advance on Grozny

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Russian government said on Wednesday it would use all means to restore order in breakaway Chechnya if separatist rebels failed to disarm by Thursday, the official ITAR-TASS news agency said.

"We confirm our intention to... put an end to the bloodshed in the zone of the Chechen conflict," it quoted a government statement as saying. "Those who fail to lay down their arms by December 15 will be responsible for all consequences of their criminal recklessness."

Meanwhile, the Russian troops advancing on the capital of Chechnya met fierce resistance from rebel fighters, as the separatist leader urged a battle in the death and peace talks failed again.

Fighting was heaviest near the village of Pyervomaiskoye, 15 kilometres northwest of Grozny. Russian troops, which entered Chechnya on Sunday to reimpose Russian rule, shelled the area from a hilltop morning and afternoon, causing most of the 5,700 residents to flee, witnesses said. They said at least two people were killed and eight wounded.

President Dzhokhar Dudayev, who declared his tiny Caucasus republic independent from the Russian Federation in 1991, urged followers to "burn the ground under (the Russians') feet. It is a fight to the death."

"Men, women, children, all Chechen people, we are ready to die," he said in a television address late Tues-

day.

Peace talks in the city of Vladikavkaz in southern Russia were called off because of Russia's "unacceptable" proposals, the Chechen chief prosecutor Usman Imayev told AFP.

"All the Russian proposals envisaged Chechnya agreeing that it is part of Russia, which is unacceptable," the Chechen official said.

More talks are possible if the Russians change their mind on this point but this series of talks is definitely over," he said.

Russian officials in Vladikavkaz told AFP that the negotiations had not ended and that the Chechens just wanted to be able to consult with Gen. Dudayev.

Three Russian columns of hundreds of tanks and thousands of soldiers advanced on Grozny from north, west and east. One of them was 15 kilometres (nine miles) north of Grozny.

Another, about 50 kilometres west of Grozny, was still under orders not to advance after 500 civilians blocked its path Tuesday and the commander refused to open fire.

Five Russian warplanes bombed a suburb of the Chechen capital Grozny Wednesday afternoon in a raid that claimed several lives, said authorities in the breakaway republic, ITAR-TASS news agency said.

The planes then overflew the centre of the city, opening fire with heavy machine-guns, TASS quoted the authorities as saying.

Four other warplanes bombed a prison near the vil-

lage of Dolinsky, north of Grozny, Wednesday morning, while helicopters attacked Chechen army positions near the rebel republic's eastern border with the Russian republic of Dagestan, the same sources said.

A Russian helicopter gunship was shot down by automatic weapons fire west of the capital, killing two crew members, an AFP correspondent at the scene reported. The third airman was captured by the Chechens and taken to hospital.

"This whole campaign is senseless," murmured a Russian medical officer, echoing what he claimed was widespread dissatisfaction within the intervention force sent to crush Chechnya's independence drive.

"What is the point of fighting the civilian population? The Chechens are ready for a partisan fight and then we'll be into a second Afghanistan," he added.

The captain, who asked to remain anonymous, said "many officers" in his division, which Wednesday had reached the Chechen town of Dovodinka after entering the rebel republic from the west via neighbouring Ingushetia, shared his fears over the operation.

"Most of us think the whole business is pointless, even those who aren't doctors," he added, showing off the Red Cross badge he wears on his left arm.

"I agree with him, and I know all about Afghanistan — I was there," said a colleague (see related story below).

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Chechen soldiers Wednesday run away from a Russian Mi-8 military helicopter fearing it might explode after shooting it down near the village of Shcham-yurt (around 40 kilometres west of Grozny). Two crew members were killed and one wounded but the pilot managed to land it on a road (AFP photo)

## Khamenei does not want supreme spiritual leadership of Shiites

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Bowing to internal opposition, Iran's spiritual leader said Wednesday that he was not a candidate for the supreme leadership of Shiites

This extra burden to be placed on top of the heavy weight which exalted God has placed on these weak shoulders," he said.

Several officials, including the head of the judiciary, Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, named Mr. Khamenei as the predominant sect in Iran and the majority in Iraq and Azerbaijan. Small populations also exist throughout the Muslim World.

Shiites comprise about 10 per cent of the world's 1 billion Muslims. They are the bus fare or lighting chocolate bars from shops in foreign countries, replied: "Taking possession of others' property without permission and using government or individuals' property without paying relevant fees is not allowed."

In another, asked about the propensity of a man masturbating in a laboratory to provide a sample for a sperm count, Mr. Khamenei replied: "Masturbation is religiously forbidden... except if masturbation for testing is the only way to determine the cause of the couple's inability to have a child."

Iranian newspapers printed a selection of religious rulings

of Khamenei and a senior cleric was quoted as saying a collection of 3,000 of his rulings would soon be published in Arabic.

In one ruling printed in Resalat newspaper Tuesday, Mr. Khamenei asked if it was alright to cheat on paying bus fares or lighting chocolate bars from shops in foreign countries, replied: "Taking possession of others' property without permission and using government or individuals' property without paying relevant fees is not allowed."

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## COLUMN

### How many AIDS tests did U.K.'s Fergie have?

LONDON (R) — Debate broke out in Britain Tuesday over how many AIDS tests the Duchess of York has had after a Portuguese newspaper quoted her as saying she had taken three. The Lisbon daily Diario De Notícias quoted the duchess, nicknamed Fergie after her maiden name Sarah Ferguson, as saying she had undergone three tests for the fatal disease. But friends said she had only had two — one before she became pregnant with her first daughter Beatrice and one last year for an insurance policy. Other reports suggested that Sarah, who is separated from Queen Elizabeth's second son Prince Andrew, had the first of three tests before she married into the royal family. Many British hospitals now routinely test for AIDS in pregnant women and British media quoted sources close to the royal family as saying all potential royal spouses underwent rigorous health screening. AIDS charities welcomed the publicity. "It helps keep HIV (the virus that causes AIDS) in the public eye," said Ruth Parry of the Terence Higgins Trust. The duchess arrived in Portugal Monday for a three-day visit to support the local AIDS charity ABRACO. She met President Mario Soares and visited AIDS victims in hospitals Tuesday. The duchess said she had been inspired to make the trip because the brother of a close friend of hers had caught the incurable disease, which is mainly transmitted by sexual intercourse, blood transfusion or the use of contaminated syringe needles.

### Belgians find fingerless arm to accompany foot

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Police in the east Belgian city of Liege reported the finding of a human left forearm from which the fingers had been amputated five days after municipal street-cleaners discovered a human foot. The severed limb was found among trash cans in front of a house in a district on the other side of the river Meuse from the bus shelter where the foot, wrapped in newspaper, had been deposited. Police say the foot was that of a woman taking a small shoe size. Police scientists are investigating.

The Russian federation will not allow for the conflict in Chechnya to be turned into a religious one like that in Bosnia, because basically it is not" he added.

He noted that the first phase of Moscow's plan to restore order to Chechnya had ended when Russian troops besieged and isolated the fighting pockets in the autonomous region of Chechnya.

Mr. Saltanov told the Jordan Times that according to the federal Russian constitution, the republic of Chechnya is an integral part of the Russian federation, noting that the option of separation adopted by Chechnya would lead to catastrophic consequences for the Chechen people.

He said that a great number of Islamic scholars in Chechnya and other republics of the Russian Federation support the continuity of the federation and oppose separatist attempts.

He added that freedom of religion is guaranteed for all citizens of the federation and that the central government had renovated hundreds of old mosques that were abandoned during the communist period and was hoping the rest would be allowed to enter soon.

Libya and several radical Palestinian groups strongly oppose the PLO-Israeli peace deal which gave Palestinians limited self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

"Followers of other faiths like Christianity and Buddhism can practise their rituals of

LONDON (R) — A couple accused of murdering 13 young women between them in a case that has made front-page headlines in Britain for 10 months have won a battle to stop a comedian from telling jokes about them, lawyers said. Frederick West, 52, and his wife Rosemary, 40, went to England's attorney general to get an order for comedian Billy Connolly to reedit a Christmas videotape. Lawyer Leo Gately said the three-minute segment would prevent the couple from having a fair trial because jurors who saw it could presume they were guilty. Thousands of copies of the video have been withdrawn from circulation and distributors Polygram are re-cutting the tape. The murders attracted lurid coverage as police dug up the bodies of the 12 murdered women and girls one by one. Most were in the West's home in Gloucester, western England, or in a house they once shared. Among the victims was West's first wife and their 16-year-old daughter and the house was quickly dubbed the "house of horror." The Wests appeared in court briefly Tuesday and were remanded in custody for a committed hearing in February.

Hawaiian jet returns after smoke fills cabin

HONOLULU (AP) — Smoke caused by a minor mechanical problem filled the cabin during a Hawaiian Airline flight to Los Angeles, forcing the plane to turn back. Ten of the 275 people on board the DC-10 were taken to a hospital for smoke inhalation after the flight was aborted late Monday. All but one woman with a preexisting health condition were treated and released.

## Hizbullah fears Israeli assassins

BEIRUT (R) — The chief of Lebanon's pro-Iranian Hizbullah said on Wednesday the group was on guard against any repeat of a 1992 Israeli helicopter ambush that killed his predecessor.

Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah said his Muslim fighters were on the alert in South Lebanon against the Israelis and their militia allies.

"When the Israelis do not have the possibility of broad attacks, they resort to limited strikes or assassinations like that of Hizbullah chief Sheikh Abbas Al Musawi," Sheikh Nasrallah told a news conference in Beirut.

Israeli helicopters rocketed Sheikh Musawi's convoy in South Lebanon on Feb. 16, 1992, killing him, his wife and baby son and five bodyguards.

Israel's deputy army chief Major-General Matan Vilnai said on Tuesday that Israel would launch strikes against Hizbullah rather than mount a large offensive.

"We do not intend to enter massively into southern Lebanon... our objective is to step up effective attacks and pinpoint hits against the Hizbullah to eliminate their influence," a parliamentary official quoted Gen. Vilnai as saying.

"Hizbullah (Party of God) is not immune and that applies to every place," ongoing Israeli chief of staff General Ehud Barak told Israeli radio. "The army will act prudently and do what needs to be done."

Sheikh Nasrallah said "any aggression will have a heavy price... (Israel Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin knows war has ups and downs. We were able and are still able to answer back twofold."

## Jobs for Palestinians top multilaterals agenda

ANTALYA, Turkey (AFP) — Millions of dollars projects to boost living conditions for Palestinian refugees and find them jobs were discussed here Wednesday by delegates from 40 countries and organisations.

Officials at the multilateral Middle East talks, chaired by Canada, said the 250 delegates discussed reports covering job creation, aid for children, public health, social and economic infrastructure and developing human resources.

Some 2.73 million Palestinians are registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA). Thirty-four per cent of them live in camps.

The multilateral talks on refugees in this Turkish Mediterranean resort form part of the Middle East peace process launched at the Madrid conference in 1991.

Turkey proposed a 20-million-dollar project to provide jobs and training for 10,500 Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

## Qatar to attend GCC preparatory meeting

DUBAI (R) — Qatar, which stayed away from a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) meeting last month because of a border dispute with Saudi Arabia, Wednesday decided to attend preparatory talks for next week's summit of GCC leaders.

The Qatar News Agency (QNA) said the cabiote agreed to send a delegation headed by Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabr Al Thani to a foreign ministers meeting in Bahrain Dec. 17 to prepare for the GCC summit Dec. 19.

Sheikh Hamad was quoted as saying this month that Qatar's interior minister had boycotted a GCC meeting in

November because Qatar had failed to receive adequate responses from Riyadh over at least five reported border incidents.

But it seems undersecretary to a meeting Dec. 5 of foreign ministers of the GCC, which also includes Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

The row between the two Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) members raised fears of a repetition of events before the GCC's annual summit in 1992 when Qatar boycotted meetings and then threatened to boycott the summit itself over the border tensions.

He said the Libyan action was apparently a political move by Tripoli against Mr. Arafat to force him to let Palestinians enter the new self-rule area of Gaza, even though Mr. Arafat needs Israeli permission for Palestinians to enter.

He denied, however, a report circulated in Damascus by the Hamas group that as a result two Palestinian children had died on the border.

He said that the Palestinian embassy in Cairo had supplied them with food and blankets. The Palestinians could not go back to Gaza because they were there as visitors.

He denied, however, a report circulated in Damascus by the Hamas group that as a result two children of the barred families had died.

He said official sources in Egypt informed the Palestinian embassy last week Libya had banned entry of all Palestinians who visited Gaza — even those who have entry visas, residences and businesses in Libya.

He said dozens of Palestinians who left Libya last month to visit relatives in Gaza were refused re-entry at the Sallomm border crossing on grounds their residence permits had expired.

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